EXITRONPA 2
ROAD TO INSANITY AND
NEVERMORE!

[-] Prologue

Exit Academy.

The place of unfond memories. The place that had held a killing game set merely just a few months before that had ended after 13 lives were claimed in the murderous grasps of a sadistic teenager and his partner in crime. Monoroku had stayed behind after the four remaining survivors had left, tending to what was left of the empty halls of the school. He was doing his daily duties, haven't even dared to leave the place after what he had done to all of those poor students and his co-workers. He had a book in hand, gazing down at it as he was roaming the halls of what used to be occupied with so many students and the people who taught them... All before they had vanished to the likes of himself and Gelatin. He silently flipped open the book, reading as he walked. He knew he was alone in the place, so he had to find other means to keep himself busy such as reading or tending to the plants of the garden on the first floor.

His footsteps echoed as everything around him was nothing but dead silence. The pages wrinkled as it was flipped past, the words shining out to him as he read. It felt refreshing to read like this, humming a little to himself as he went to bend the end of the page to leave a bookmark as he approached the stairs to navigate up or down the floors of the building. He closed it up, holding it to his side as he headed downstairs to head for bed. He had been on the 3rd floor, coming from the library as he went down the flight of stairs to get to where his room was. He had taken the room that used to be occupied by a former student there for sleeping, going to enter inside and sit on the bed as he was taking off his hat and getting ready to sleep.

He rubbed his eyes, yawning. "Mm..." He glanced to the side before going to tuck himself to bed and quickly head off to sleep...

He quickly opened his eyes, feeling a sense of dread wash over him as he was trying to get his senses back to him. He wasn't sure what was going on... But he knew something wasn't right. He tried to move himself off of the bed but felt restrained. He looked over to his arms, noticing chains around his wrists that were holding him back against a wooden board. He felt his heart skip as he realized he was stuck somewhere, looking around and trying to squirm away as all four of his limbs were forced against the board. He had realized at that moment... He was helpless. He took a hard gulp, trying to find out where he was. The place was almost completely dark, besides a dim spotlight over himself. He felt somebody was there, though. He growled. "Who's there?!" He shouted, attempting to hide his fear as he could hear dim footsteps in the area.

"C-Come out!"

He closed his eyes, tears streaming down his cheeks as he tried to free himself from the hard grips of the metal bars, knowing that he was completely vulnerable to whoever was out there. He was terrified. He didn't know what the person wanted or what would be his fate... Whatever it was, he knew it wouldn't be good as he felt the faint smell of blood in the room. After what seemed like forever of waiting for the poor man, somebody had finally come into the light.

They weren't familiar to Monoroku at all. "W-Who are you-" He gazed back at his face, before noticing what they had in hand. He felt sudden despair as he realized that these would most likely be his final moments here. "Ah... If it isn't Monoroku himself." The figure spoke, gripping whatever they had in hand tightly. "How pathetic. You look much worse than from what I recall of you... How come? Is it because of the guilt you feel after releasing those undeserving stuck-up kids back out to the world?" He began to get closer to where Monoroku was. "You don't deserve to live. Nor do you deserve redemption... You have done lots of wrongs... Far too much to be here."

He wasn't sure how to respond to what he was saying, looking away and feeling tears come down from his cheeks. "I-I don't know what you want. They didn't deserve to die. None of them did!"

"Then why let them?"

"...Huh."

"Why did you let a kid control you. Tell me."

"H-How do you know that..."

"I know everything about you. Everything from when you hosted the games to the relationships you had with the other teachers before you killed them all."

"..."

There was silence between the two men before he decided to show what he had in his hands.

A chainsaw.

He began to rev it up, giving a large grin at him. "Now, let's have the fun begin." Monoroku stared at it, then at him. "Y-You-" He tried to still escape from the metal grasp keeping him back from escaping, crying, and whining to himself. Before long, those whines had turned to screams as he felt his stomach being cut open by the chainsaw. He shook in pain as blood spilled all over the ground. "S-STOP-" He tried to say to him, coughing as blood came out from the pain that came with it.

There was no attempt to stop.

Once his chest was opened they had dropped the chainsaw and went to grab inside. "Hm... No." He simply said, before beginning to grip his insides tightly and begin to rip it out of him. All Monoroku could do was try to scream for help from the intense pain he had felt from all of it. He let out one last gasp, trying to cry out for help before it had faded into nothing as he felt him rip out everything out of him. Everything he had... Gone.

Including his own life.

He had his hands behind his back after his work was done. He observed the corpse as all of it was poured onto the ground. He heard a beeping sound come from his coat, as he went to grab the walkie-talkie from it and listen in to what they had to say. He was growing a large smile, before giving a nod. "He's dead. Now, we can have our

real fun... Meet me in the school so we can prepare for..."

"Our brand new students."

HELLO!!! starting off with a big one! yes i started with a death suck it i am really excited to be writing this as this sequel has been in the

works for awhile now (nearly a year actually!) so, i hope you all enjoy this ride because i'm very excited to show you how much i have improved :')

[1] Awake.

"...Huh?"

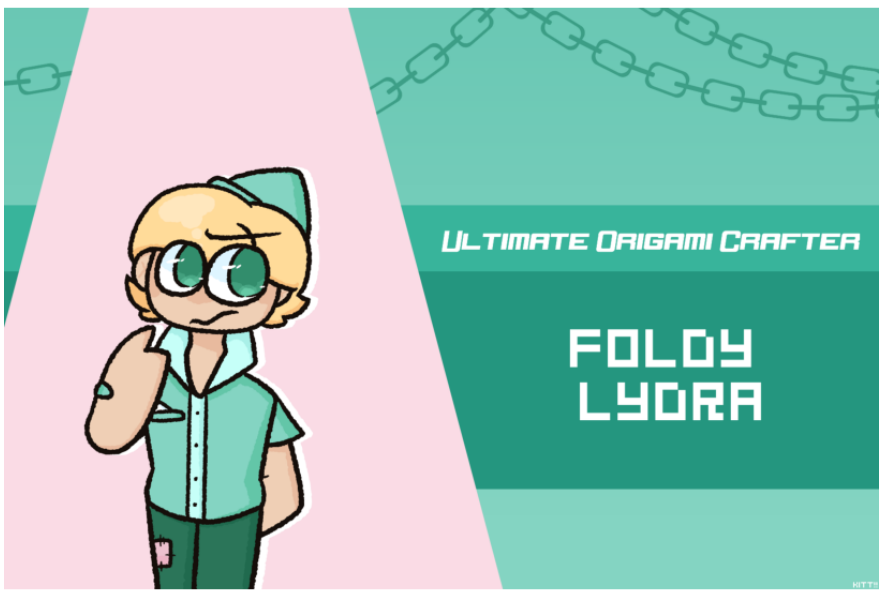
An aching pain hit my head as I arose from where I had apparently been for who knows how long. I frowned to myself as I went to stand, going to adjust myself as I tucked my shirt under my belt and went to prepare myself to take in my new surroundings. I don't exactly know what happened but I figured it was best not to ask. I didn't recognize the place much, the last thing I remember was heading inside the school after getting some invite to attend it. This did seem like it too... I groaned a bit. "Fuck." I grumbled a little to myself as I went to walk over to the door and open it, about to leave until I heard somebody else in the room with me. I jumped a little, turning over to where I heard them. I stayed silent, squinting as I went to begin to approach them.

A person was behind the sets of chairs, on the other side of the classroom as they had seemingly just woken up. They were looking around, just as unsure as I was. They suddenly noticed me, springing up and staring at me. "Oh jeez- You scared me!" They went to keep their hat upon their head. "Uh... How long have you been here??" I tilted my head, frowning and moving my hands behind my back. "Not long... I had woken up recently and was about to leave until I heard you."

"Oh, I see... Well, that's just great. I think we should both probably get the hell out of this classroom though-"

"We could do that." I nodded. "Hm... Before we go though, mind if you tell me who exactly you are?"

They glanced to the side. "...Uh. Sure." They put their hands on their sides. "My name's Foldy. Foldy Lydra." She began, looking over at me. "Since we're in this school together, I think knowing my ultimate would probably be good. It's the Ultimate Origami Crafter."



I raised an eyebrow. Huh... Maybe other people like me got stuck here... Oh, whatever. I can't trust this girl so easily. "...Hm, good to know." I spoke, heading straight to the door and going to leave. Before I left, I could hear her speak out and try to follow after me. "..Hey! I never got your name!" I closed the door on her, not looking back as I quickly sped walked to investigate the rest of the school.

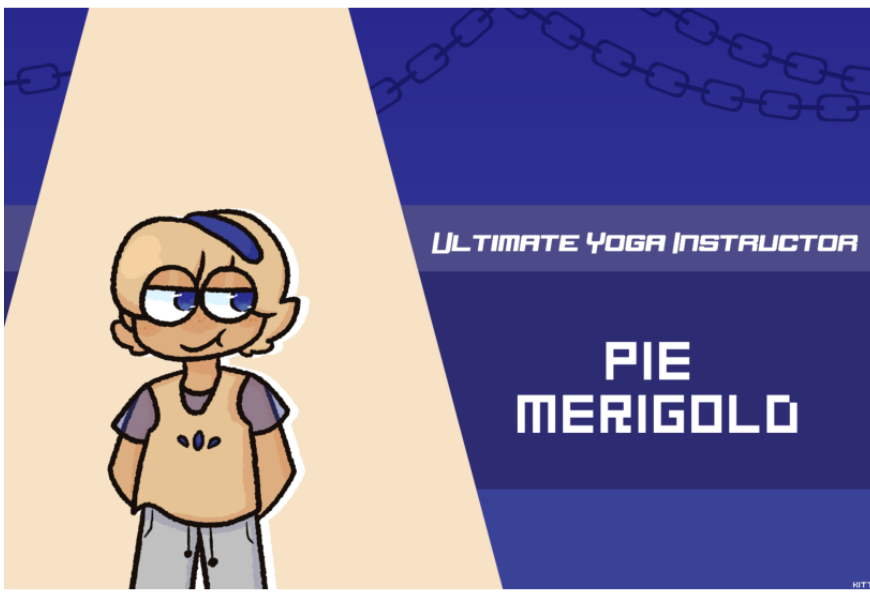
I wasn't sure if it was okay or safe to trust anyone in this place. Not yet. It was definitely suspicious and I needed to keep my guard up.

I held my arms, glancing around as I could hear footsteps in the distance. I raised an eyebrow, being cautious as I wanted to make sure whoever was there wouldn't be a threat. I was a little scared, honestly. I had no clue what this damned school had done... Though, I'll give the benefit of the doubt for now.

Soon enough, I had ran into the people creating the footsteps.

There were two people, a fairly short girl with casual clothing on. The person beside her had a much taller appearance, wearing what seemed to be a worker's uniform with a long braid at the side of his hair. "See? Told you there'd be someone else..." The girl spoke, moving her hands behind her head. "Yeah yeah... Who are you?" The boy frowned, squinting at me. I backed up a little uncomfortably, huffing. "Just another student. How about you both." I was quite relieved they seemed and probably were harmless.

"Huh? Oh, well... I'm Pie." The petite girl began, putting her hands to her sides. "Pie Merigold, the Ultimate Yoga Instructor."



I nodded. "I see, I see..." I murmured. ...So these would've been my classmates if we were actually, uh, learning. The thought concerned me a little, knowing something clearly was wrong. I wasn't quite sure what but it'd most likely be clear sooner or later.

Oh whatever, I'm getting ahead of myself.

Pie glanced over to the boy accompanying him. "Are you going to

introduce yourself or..."

"Huh- Oh. Right." He frowned. "Bomby Baratol." He went to stick his hand out. "Nice to uh, meet you." I eyed him warily, noticing that he only had one arm.

I went to shake his gloved hand, before putting my hands behind my back. "Ah, good to know... Well, we got a bit more investigating to

do. Have you seen anyone else?" I questioned, glancing around. "I've only seen one other person..."

"Uh, n-no. Not really..."

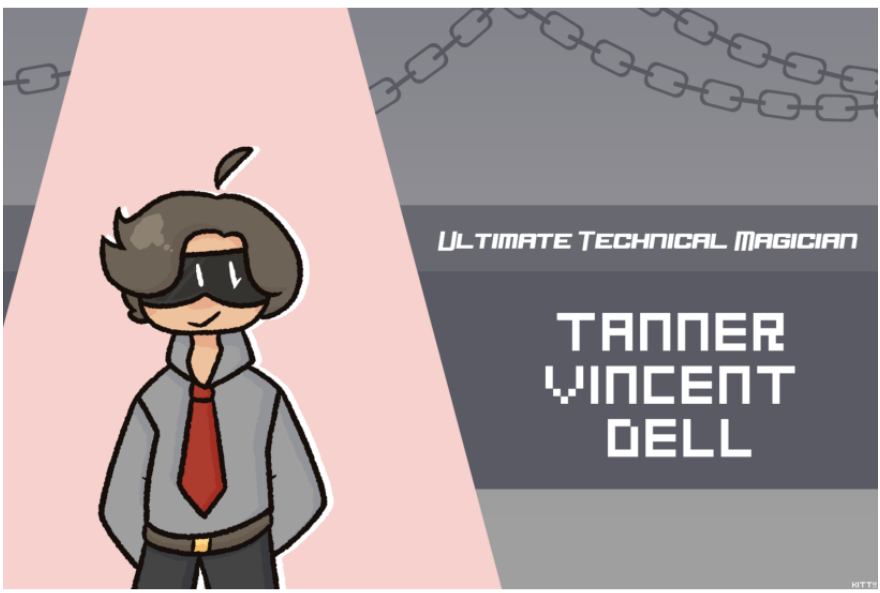
"We've seen like, one or two others." Pie described, squinting as she seemed to gaze off a little. "Whatever. There's probably more people around here. We'll just have to find them." Bomby nodded a little in agreement with her.

"Alright then... I'll leave you both to it." I went to wave them goodbye before continuing forward. Truthfully, I didn't expect too much out of this. My main priority was to mostly get the hell out of here since, well, this was sketchy and there didn't really even seem to be many exits from what I've seen so far. I felt so focused on thinking about what to do that I hadn't even noticed the person incoming as I had bumped into them. I stumbled back, covering my face in surprise. "Wh-" I was caught off guard, going to direct my attention to who it was. "Uh..."

"O-Oh! I'msosorry-" The person quickly apologized, going to help me stand. "Are you okay??"

"...Yes. I'm fine." I growled, going to dust myself off. "Now, who in the world are you?"

"Right, right..." He rubbed the back of his head, giving a small smile. "The Ultimate Technical Magician!" He announced quite proudly. "M-My name's Tanner Vincent Dell. Call me TV Dell for short though."



He adjusted his tie. "Well uh... S-Sorry about that, again." He fidgeted, gazing at me. "What were you even doing..?"

"I could ask the same for you. But well, if it wasn't soooo obvious, I was exploring. Simple."

"M-Makes sense..." He nodded, twitching a little. "Uh... I-I was just looking for people! I haven't seen anyone until now..."

"Really? Hm... I've seen a few."

"Oh!.. Yeah... I mean, I started looking sorta recently so... Oh! M-Maybe I can join you. It'd be better to look around and group up with more people." He suggested, giving a smile at me. He seemed to want me to approve of the idea, which I decided to reluctantly do. "Hm... Ugh, fine. It'd be best if we group up so we find a way out of here."

"Sounds good!" He cheerfully said. I grumbled a little, going to begin to lead the both of us around. Our walk was quite silent but I noticed him looking around and seemingly daydreaming about things. It was interesting, to say the least. At least I had somebody to work with for the meanwhile...

I took a deep breath, continuing to wander the halls. I didn't have many good results until I began to hear noises in the distance. "...Huh." I looked over to TV. "You hear that?" I pointed out. He looked over to me, glancing upwards before giving a small nod. "Yes... Sounds like... other people! We should go there." He started, beginning to make his way there. I quickly went to grab his arm, raising an eyebrow. "Hey. We don't know if they're trustworthy though..."

"T-They're still people. I thought we were trying to find more people!"

"I mean, yes... But finding those people might lead to something bad. Just keep your guard up. Okay?" I didn't know why I decided to tell him that but... I knew it was best to have somebody on your side. "...A-Alright. Got it!" He nodded, as we both began to approach the doors where we were hearing the muffled words from.

I hesitated but went to slide open the doors to reveal...

[1] The Gymnasium.

A large area, that was empty for the most part, with a good amount of people inside of it. I glanced back at Tv as the sounds of people were much more clearer as people seemed to have been grouping up here. I didn't recognize many of them but I figured the ones I've seen earlier weren't here and still exploring the place.

"Hm." I frowned, as Tv had turned to me. "Soo... S-Should we split up here?" He asked, giving a gentle smile. I rolled my eyes, giving a small nod. "Yeah uh, I'll see you later." I went to begin walking off, with the intention to gather more information. Though... It did seem like we *were* supposed to be here so, I'll take my chances.

There was a group of 3 that had intrigued me the most since they were being quite loud. As I got closer, I could hear their clear arguing. I had my hands behind my back, raising an eyebrow at them. I went to clear my voice to get their attention. "What the hell is going on here?"

The two arguings paused as they went to look over at me. Both seemed pretty pissed. The third, a mere spectator, crossed their arms and eyed me suspiciously. "Oh, what's going on here?"

"I have to shove COMMON SENSE into his dumbass brain!" They snapped. The person that they seemed to refer to gave a glare towards them. "Just because you're a GIRL doesn't mean I need to treat you like royalty or some shit!"

"Take. That. Back."

"No!"

The two went back to arguing as I looked over to the spectator. They gazed back at me. "What? Can't I watch them?" They muttered. "...Well, obviously you could tell me your name or something. We all

seem to be stuck here together so introducing ourselves might be for the best."

"Uh-huh, sure." She didn't seem too interested in speaking to me. I frowned but knew she probably was being just as cautious as I was.

"Hm, of course if you want to. I just believe it's-"

"I've heard you already." She went to face over to me, losing all attention to the duo. "If you really want to know who I am so badly then fine!" She growled. "Ice Cube Darrow." She muttered. "The Ultimate Kickboxer."

I growled as she chose to act aggressively towards me. I had then remembered why I had lost my optimism in the real world, faded from the persona I play for myself. "...Right. Well then. It was nice talking to you." I bitterly spoke, before glancing over to the other two. "Are you both done yet?" I raised an eyebrow, frowning.

I was decently tense, but I wanted to know who I would be forced to

work with before leaving. I can't expect... too much honestly. "Oh, I can't STAND you!" The girl shouted, growling before looking over me. "If it gets me to stop talking to such a stupid asshole, then yes!" The boy crossed his arms, looking away in frustration. I hesitated, squinting at them. "...Alright then."

"Hm..." She observed me, looking at me from head to toe.

"Now it's time for me to introduce myself! So shut up, dickhead." She shoved the boy to the side with her arm. She seemed to be quite full of herself, sneering a little. "Puffball Bitterroot the Ultimate Vocalist." She spoke. I noticed Ice Cube look away from hearing her.

She went to look over to the boy who seemed to be attempting to slip away as the both of us were distracted in conversation. "Oi!" Puffball snapped to him. "Aren't you gonna tell us who the hell you are you goddamn pussy!?"

"Who are you calling pussy?! I'll say who I am alright!" He shouted in anger, clearly angry to be called that. He went to strike a pose in confidence. "I'm Snowball Vihamen! The Ultimate Snowboarder!" He

said.

He seemed pretty smug, going to cross his arms after. "Obviously I'm the ultimate of a sport that isn't for pissy girls LIKE YOU!" He spat.

"Oh yeah?!"

I went to quickly back away as I saw the both of them go back to

arguing. I got all I needed and that's what matters. Looking around, I noticed 5 people that I haven't recognized. Pie and Bomby had walked in while I was busy trying to get names. I figured that this would be where we would supposed to be at then. I was in the middle of walking to someone when I had heard the faint noise of a squeak behind me.

I swiftly turned around, squinting at the person who seemed to be following me. I had landed my eyes on someone quite short, looking up to me innocently. "Oh, hello sir!" They waved, tilting their head.

"...Uh." I squinted. "Jeez, you scared me. Who the hell are you?"

They paused, seemingly dazing off before giving a playful nod. "Oh, buddy! You don't know me?? Well... I'm Profile Picture. Friends call me Profily! I'm... Well uh..."

"What's bothering you." I stayed on alert, taking a step back in the situation they pulled anything.

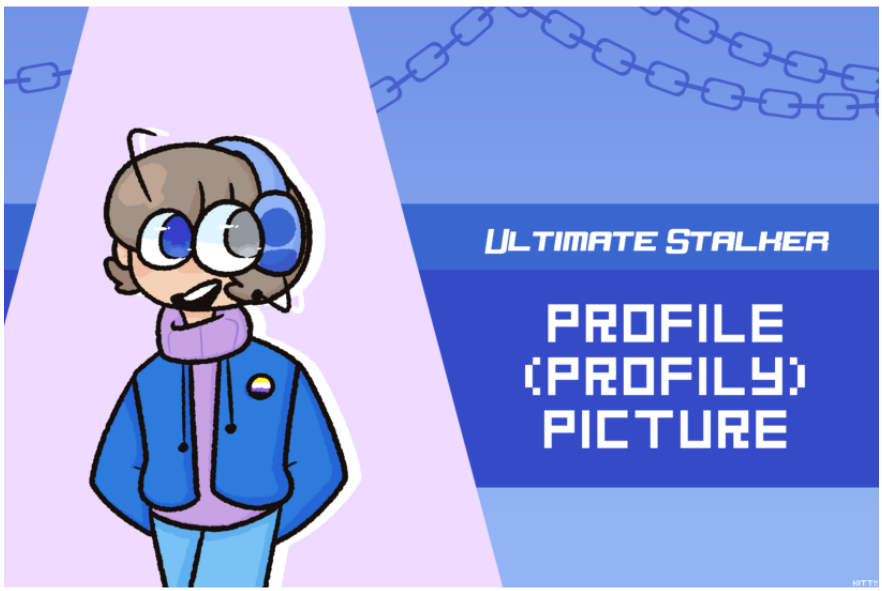
"Sooo... Most people usually uh," They began to play with their fingers. "Stay away from me when I say what my talent is... Can you promise to not do that??"

"...Uh."

I didn't know what to expect out of them, frowning.

"Oh, fine... What is it."

They gave a sigh of relief. "Well then! That's good, pal." They nudged me playfully. "Since well," They decided to lean in uncomfortably close to me and whispered, "I got titled the Ultimate Stalker by people..." They went to back off after, going to rub the back of their head.



Oh.

I raised an eyebrow. "Err... Right uh, how exactly did you get that ultimate again?" I already knew off the bat that they didn't seem the most trustworthy. "Uhh... I don't remember! I guess I just wear it around me nowadays from things I do." They tilted their head. "Anywayss... I got more new people to see!" They went to look over to the door, as Foldy had walked in. "See ya!" They waved before

running off.

I frowned a little at their excitement... How could they be like that during such an uncomfortable situation? I suppose people act differently in these sorts of things than I would have expected.

I went to look over towards where I had last seen the person I was about to approach, but they seemed to have moved elsewhere. I groaned a little out of irritation, going to instead walk up to a duo of girls. The both of them seemed to be confused, one was very slim and tall while the other wasn't as tall and had a well-rounded body. I moved my hand behind my back, "Greetings, you both." I began. The shorter one had looked over to me, glancing down at me and raising an eyebrow. "Oh, hey." She didn't seem too amused by me, but I wasn't gonna let that hurt me. After all, it seemed like most people here were like that. "Huh? What is it?" The second girl looked over, hands behind her back. "Oh, just somebody wanting to talk to us... Look, just tell us what you want then leave. We know you want something."

I frowned from her snappy attitude, sighing. "Hm, fine. You got me." I moved my hands out, acting a little dramatic. "I just want to know your names and talents, that's all and then I'll move on with my day." The same girl groaned a little, crossing her arms and moving her glasses up to her face. "Alright, let's just get this over with..."

She glanced to the side, frowning a little as she began to introduce herself. "Eggy Orpington, the Ultimate Therapist." She looked back over to me. "I am of service to everyone's safety here."

I nodded. "Lovely to meet you." I took out my hand and did a formal handshake before noticing the much taller girl looking away. "Uh, I don't even know you... Why should I-" She grumbled. Eggy rolled her eyes. "Come on, it really can't be that hard..."

"...Right uh. Fine." She moved her hands to the back of her head, looking away. "This is stupid..." She complained, kicking her foot against the floor a bit. She hesitated, but reluctantly began to do the

same as everyone else had here. "Needle Eden... One of the fastest Marathon Runners in the world."

Needle sighed. "Okay, I did it. Happy?" She seemed a little upset at Eggy now, but I didn't pay too much mind to it. Eggy nodded, giving a small smile of confidence. "Mhm. Now, you may leave." She urged, before going back to talk about something else with her. I rolled my eyes, going to dismiss myself from both girls.

By the time I had finished the conversation and backed off, I noticed that a lot of people were now here. I glanced around, taking a silent headcount to see how many people were in this room.

15 others.

What an... interesting number. I felt a little uncomfortable with the amount of people, beginning to head over to the doors to leave until I heard a loud slam. I turned my head over to where I was facing, realizing the doors were closed shut. "Oh, shit..." I began to run over to it to see if I could open it.

I tried to jerk open the door with my hands, wincing as they didn't budge. We were all locked in there... I looked over to everyone else, realizing they had noticed what I had. Someone went to step up, the person that I had tried to approach towards earlier. "Hey uh... Do you need help?" They awkwardly asked, rubbing the back of their head. "Does it look like it?" I gestured towards it. "Be my guest..." I growled as I stepped to the side, moving my hands to my sides as they approached it. "R-Right uh..." They gripped the handles, beginning to violently shake it in an attempt to get it to open.

They banged their head against the wall, a little frustrated as they tried one more time before tripping on themself and falling back. "Agh-" I jumped a little from their performance...

Okay, that was fucking pathetic.

Puffball had seemed to agree. "Hey! Come on, I thought you were smarter than that." She spat, tilting her head at them. They went to dust themselves off, going to get up. They looked at Puffball for a brief moment before glancing away uncomfortably. "Uhh... Yeah. I-I just want to get out of here."

Pie raised an eyebrow, rolling her eyes. "We all do. Maybe we're all gathered here for a reason..." She explained. I frowned, "Obviously..." I muttered under my breath.

Eggy pondered a little over that, before nodding. "Yeah. That seems most logical." She looked over to the stage. "Maybe we should all go over there."

Foldy looked over to where she was looking. "Huh? How come?" She was a little confused, squinting as she saw something.

"Well, there seems to be some people waiting for us..."

[1] Introducing...

Seeing those people there... Standing. Waiting. It rubbed me the wrong way. I raised an eyebrow at the sight. "...Uh, are we actually trusting that?"

"Tell me, where the hell else can we even go?" Ice Cube sneered over my question. "Come on. Let's just figure out why we're all here... They seem to be behind this." She began to lead everyone over towards the stage, where the group watched us. I grudgingly followed, knowing those doors were probably not going to budge anytime soon...

All of us slowly moved back over to where the stage was, grouping up together to see what the group wanted. There were four of them, all robotic-like. Eggy frowned, crossing arms. "Look, we're here. What do you-"

"Ah... It's so sweet to see our new students getting along." One spoke, beginning to move forward behind the podium with a small microphone to project their voice. "Greetings, students! Welcome to EXIT Academy. It's so wonderful to see all of you here gathered... Because we have a lot of business to get through. Isn't that right, my dear assistants?" The other three seemed to have come to life from the original's calls.

"Indeed!"

"Yup!"

"Mhm!~"

"...So uh. This is actually the school?" Foldy rubbed the back of her head. "Where the hell are the other students??"

"Other students?" They tilted their head, chuckling. "No, only you 16 very special students are attending this year. You have... Most of the

school all to yourselves." They had their hands behind their back. "Now, before we let you go, we should all introduce ourselves and discuss the plans regarding the school. Shall we get to that now?"

"...Or, you could maybe just... Let us leave? This seems really fishy..." Somebody spoke. A girl with a lab coat spoke, rubbing the back of her head and looking up at them.

"No. That is not an option now that all of you talented people are here." They went to adjust their tie. "Now let me introduce myself. I am The Announcer, the Principal of this very school." He formally spoke, before looking at his associates. "These are the Speaker Boxes. They all go by codenames. Meet Puffba1l Speaker Box, F1rey Speaker Box, and F1ower Speaker Box."

"Together, we make up your staff members. We will all be here to assist you in any way needed while living here."

Puffball hesitated at the sight of them. "...W-Wait. THAT'S WHERE YOU WENT?!" She seemed quite surprised and a little paranoid over them. She didn't seem to know how to respond, crossing her arms and looking away a little. Eggy looked over, approaching her and deciding to try to comfort her.

I paused a little, glancing over at the two. What the hell did that

mean?

Announcer didn't seem phased at all, continuing with what he was saying. "This year is a very special one for us all... You all will be living here for quite a while." He put his hands behind his back. "Don't expect to escape. We've made sure you can't..."

"Hey wait... What the hell do you define as a year?" Ice Cube squinted at the four as Firey Speaker Box had approached the stage to speak. "Well, what do ya think?" He snickered a little, raising an eyebrow. "The rest of your lives!"

That made the entire room silent. I stared, in disbelief at the news I had heard. I stepped back a little, growling. I knew everyone was trying to process what they had just heard, so I chose to be the first to speak up from the group to this. "You're fucking lying. Aren't you." I spat, my fists turned into hands. The thought of being stuck here for... a while without any way to leave sounded shitty. I needed to leave. "Oh, of course not!" He laughed, amused with my reaction as he went to nudge Flower Speaker Box. Announcer gave a small nod to them both before looking back at us all. "Right, well... There may be ONE way to get out. Though, I don't think you would like it very much."

"Oh yeah?! Fucking give it then! I'm no pussy!" Snowball snapped, squinting at him as he stomped his foot on the ground to direct the attention to him. Someone nearby, who had a crouched position had jumped and quickly backed away from him in response. I wasn't sure what to expect but I had dreaded what would be told.

"In order to leave this school, you must graduate! Now... We have very special requirements here in order to graduate EXIT Academy. Now, chime in with me everyone!" He moved his hands out, gesturing to the other 3 robots. They all took a deep breath in before all repeating the same sentence in synchronized harmony.

"IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM EXIT ACADEMY, A STUDENT MUST KILL ONE OF THEIR FELLOW CLASSMATES AND GET AWAY WITH THE CRIME TO LEAVE!"

Oh, *shit.*

I shot to look over at Snowball to see how he responded, I noticed him tense up and freeze. It was clear he didn't expect to hear that, quite stunned. "E-Excuse me?? Do you really think we'd be sick enough to kill each other?" Eggy seemed quite confused over the idea, messing with her glasses and squinting at them. "We're not going to be stupid enough to fall for your tricks."

Flower Speaker Box scoffed a little, moving her hair a little. "Oh, that's quite funny..." She commented, murmuring something to Firey Speaker Box and glaring a little at us. "I don't think you should say that once one of you are no longer here!"

"Jeez... Okay look uh, is that all you really wanted to keep us in for?" The boy from earlier spoke once again. "Can we just leave now or..."

"Oh, of course! You should all explore~" Puffball Speaker Box added, her voice being much more autotuned and colorful than the others. "Thoughh... We need to hand you all something first! Single-file, please." She sounded like she was almost mocking us... I growled, going to move in the line that was forming. I stayed in the middle of the group, figuring that it'd be the least risky thing.

I had noticed them giving out something at the front of line, something small... I couldn't quite place on what it was yet, though. I kept moving in the line until I was at the front of the line, looking down and seeing the object being given to everyone.

It was a PDA.

"The hell is this used for..." I mumbled, going to grab it. Before I walked off, I heard one of them speak.

"Your student ID, School Regulations, and many other functions that you can visit. Visit the school rules before leaving... You'll need it."

I frowned a little at their words, deciding to go and open up the PDA to see what it contained. It showed my identity from booting it up, going to flip through it with the single button it had before seeing the rules that this fucked up place had. I went to silently read it, glancing anxiously at my fellow students. I needed to know the others...

The rules had read as followed:

"**#1** - All students must live in the academy and is prohibited from leaving it unless they graduate.

#2 - When a murder is committed, a class trial will be held. All surviving students must attend, or they will face consequences.

#3 - If the blackened is identified correctly during the class trial, only the blackened will be punished. If not, the rest of the students will be punished.

#4 - Night Time is designated from 10 P.M. to 8 A.M. where all rooms except for students' private quarters will be locked and closed during this time.

#5 - Any acts of violence towards any faculty members are strictly prohibited and will lead to severe consequences.

#6 - Damaging the PDAs are prohibited.

#7 - The Body Discovery Announcement will only occur if three or more students discover the body.

#8 - All students are free to explore any unlocked or open space of the academy.

#9 - No staff members will ever be the cause or partake in any of the murders with the only exception of rule-breakers.

#10 - If two different murders by different murderers occur, only the one whose victim was found first will be the blackened.

#11 - Any staff member may add additional regulations to this list at any time."

I frowned, briefly skimming through the rules before turning it off and making my way outside of the gymnasium to explore the rest of the place. I looked back to the students still inside before looking away and walking. I just...

Wow.

You have got to be fucking kidding me.

I wanted to break the damned thing so badly, irritated. I knew that there was bound to be some sort of punishment though, and knowing what was just said by those... robotic freaks. I knew it wouldn't be fucking fun. I rolled my eyes, muttering swears under my breath when I had heard somebody behind me. I swiftly turned around, raising an eyebrow.

Behind me was a... child. Somebody that probably shouldn't be here. "How the fuck..." I squinted, lowering my guard a little. He seemed a little harmless, playing with his fingers and looking up. He seemed surprised a little. "U-Uhm..." He waved a little nervously. He seemed unsure of what to say.

"...Hm. What's your name." I was intrigued by who this person was. If he was here then he clearly must've been someone special. Well, we all are. The child hesitated a little, mouthing something before vocals began to come out of his mouth. He played with his suspenders a little awkwardly. "R-Rocky." He choked out.

I realized he probably didn't know how to speak very well, "What's your talent? And, if you could, last name as well?"

Rocky thought for a moment. "Rocky... Sedineous!" He chirped happily, thinking again before giving a small nod. He moved his suspenders a little. "R-Rock Climber."

"I see..." I went to move my hand out, letting him take it and hold my hand in his. "Lovely to meet you, Rocky." I formally said. Rocky went to squeeze my hand a little, making me flinch in response. "Y-Yeah! Nice to meet you to... S-Sir." I quickly withdrew my hand afterward, shaking it. I didn't like to be touched very much unless it was for formal matters... Well, it's whatever.

I got what I wanted.

"Of course. Well, I must get going... You'll be fine on your own, yes?"

He nodded, giving a small smile before looking around. I went to take it as the advantage to walk off, a little amused over the child's behavior. Though with such an unfortunate situation all of my fellow classmates have been put in, I knew things wouldn't turn out quite well for the younger ones. I kept thinking about the rules of the game, how to break it, how to get out of here... I wanted nothing to do with any of this. But having looked around once again, there seemed to really be no way out of this.

Oh, was I such a fool for willingly walking into this damned place.

Angry thoughts kept plaguing my mind, frustrated with myself. I should've known better. It was soon shortly distracted by the voices of two women in the background. I could hear them nearby, neither felt very recognizable as anyone I'd spoken to before. I peered over the corner where I had heard the voices, seeing the two speaking to each other.

"I never thought I'd see someone else from Midlight High... Well, that means we'll have to be buddies for this then! Right?" One spoke, wrapping her arm playfully around the other.

She nodded. "Hehe, yep! As long as we stick together, nothing should go wrong!" I raised an eyebrow a little at her comment, frowning as I was about to back away until I heard the two.

"Heyy... Is it me or do I suddenly feel somebody watching us?"

"Watching?" The other glanced around in curiosity. "Nope!"

I quickly tried to back away, but it appeared I had been noticed as the girl who had pointed it out began to speak. "Oh! We were!" I tensed up as I felt both of their eyes view my appearance. "You know, if you wanted to chat you could've just walked up to us." She playfully said.

"...Right, right... I'm only here to know who you are. For introduction purposes."

"Oh, of course, you can know that!" She spoke, looking to the other.

"You're okay with that. Right?" I heard her mutter quite loudly. "That's a-okay with me!"

"Right, well! I'll start!" After another look, I finally registered her as the girl speaking up earlier. "It's Pillow Crinitaos. Ultimate Researcher!" She showed off her jacket a little, playfully giving a smile. "Trying new things is always something fun to do!"

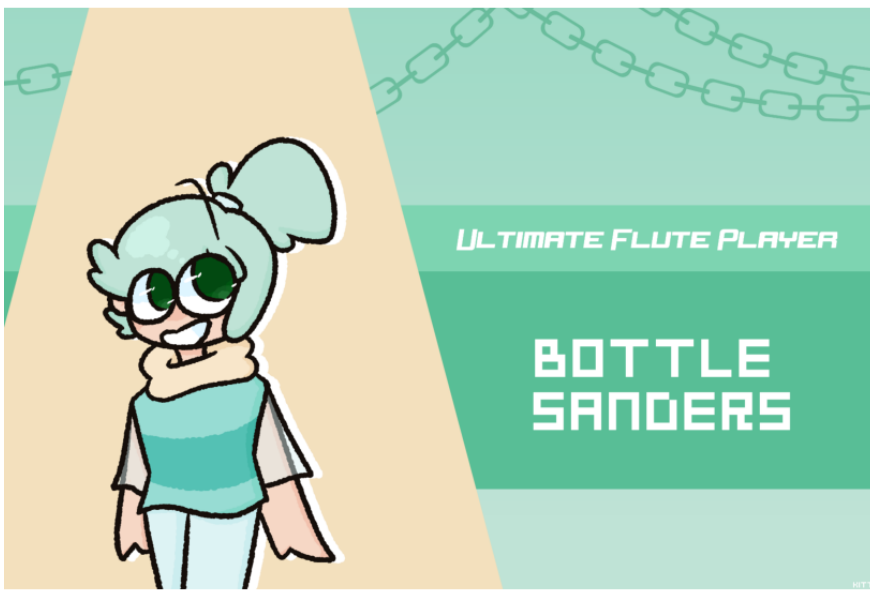
...Does that include murder?

I decided to scratch that thought off my head, grumbling a little to myself. I rather not think about that right now... I'm nearly done gathering everyone. After this other girl, if I had counted right then I just needed 2 more people before I have everyone. Then I can work from there.

"Your turn!"

"Huh?" The other girl seemed to have dazed off, before looking back at me. "Oh, okay!" She happily laughed a little. She didn't seem quite as playful and social as the other, but still quite optimistic.

"I'm Bottle Sanders! Hehe, Ultimate Flute Player~!"



I noted that silently. "I see, I see... Well, that's all I've asked for so I'll leave you be."

"Awh, no name from you?" Pillow frowned.

"No, not quite comfortable sharing that..."

Bottle seemed perfectly fine with it. "Oh, okay!"

Pillow raised an eyebrow. "Well... If you feel more comfortable, feel free to tell us!" Pillow went to hug Bottle. "We'll see you later!"

"Yeah, alright. See you both later." I looked away and quickly went to walk off. Now to find those last two... Wherever they were. I had passed by a few people during my search, but nobody that I couldn't recognize. Finally, I had found the two with each other. As well as Puffball, who seemed to be occupied speaking to them. "Hm..." I walked up to them. "Hello."

"Ohh... Hey! It's the weirdo who just asked for my name and left." Puffball smirked a little, hands on her hips. "I'm guessing you're still on your little 'journey' with that. Huh?" The last two seemed to be boys, one that I had recognized from the gymnasium.

"These two are the last ones I need to know."

"Ohh... Alright! Come on then, I'm sure he'll LOVEEE to know about you." She nudged one of the boys. The boy winced, holding onto his glasses and frowning at her. "H-Hey!- I-I get it!"

"Yeah yeah... Seriously, Donut. Cheer up a little."

"S-Shush..." He growled, going to take off his glasses and wipe it quickly before putting it back on. "Now where was I..." He eyed me a little, "Right... Uh."

"As Puffball said, M-My name's Donut. Donut Cerise if that's really important." He stammered a little. "U-Ultimate Barista. That's all you need to know."

"That is." I kept my hands behind my back, still bothered by the warmth of the child's hand squeezing mine from earlier. I looked over to the other boy. "Does he speak much?"

"Huh? Oh, I haven't heard fucking shit from him during our entire convo!" Puffball frowned. "Come on, why won't you speak up for once? Just... a name maybe?" She went to shove him a little out of frustration. The other boy, fairly thin with an oversized gown winced

and seemed to stumble back.

He whimpered a little, looking at all 3 of us fearfully before he had decided to speak.

"...W-Wooddy Alsab..."

"Yeah, and what's your special thing?" Puffball snapped, smirking a little.

"...I-I don't know."

I paused. "..What?"

"What the fuck do you mean you don't know- Y-You've probably been doing it all your life!" Puffball seemed quite upset now, taking a step forward and snapping at him. Donut quickly ran to hold her back. "H-Hey! Calm down!- H-He probably doesn't remember right now. Give him a break!"

Woody stared at her, before turning away and running off.

"J-Jeez, look what you've done noww." He sighed a little, watching as Pb relaxed herself. "Ugh, whatever! Well. Look at that. You know everyone else now."

"How about you tell us who the FUCK you are?"

[1] Who am I?

I tensed up a little over Puffball's attitude, glancing to the side. "...Well, I suppose." I went to relax myself, knowing I had to eventually. I've gathered everyone else's identities... It's only fair they know mine. The three of us didn't speak a word for what had seemed like quite a while, not until Donut began to speak. "So, uh..." He stammered. "A-Are we waiting for something or..." I grinned a little at his remark, taking a deep breath.

I moved my hand out, before gesturing to myself. "So, you'd like to know about me? I'd think such lovely folks such as you both would know a gentleman like myself!" I laughed a little at them both. I went to do a small bow before moving my hands behind my back. "I don't quite remember my talent... Well, though, it feels faintly there. I suppose."

"But my name is Yellowface Yates. It's nice to meet you both." I kept my hand to myself, clutching my mask a bit to make sure it stayed on.

There was a bit of stunned silence from them both before Puffball went to speak. "Uh, no. Never fuckin' heard of you ever." She rolled her eyes. Donut looked away. "Y-Yeah. Me neither..." I frowned at their responses. "Of course you don't..." I grumbled under my breath. "Well then! I suppose it's now my cue to go... I have some things to figure out about this ridiculous place." I went to turn my back to them, not looking back as I had walked away from the both of them...

I had plenty of questions, but I was certain none would be solved. I was just a little relieved to keep my mask on and not need to say too much about myself. Maybe I might make it out here alive, perhaps not.

I went to check my PDA out of sheer boredom, before noticing the time clicking to 10 PM. If my memory had served me right... I had to head to my dormitory. Wherever that is. The digital device began to suddenly beep, nearly making me drop it. I squinted, as a voice began to come through from it. "Students. Please make your way to the dormitory hallway so we can assign you all your rooms for your first rest out of many." The voice spoke before another beep came after and had turned off. I frowned at the response, shoving it back in my pockets before going to look around. I figured it couldn't be far...

They did expect us to find it.

After a small bit of searching, I had noticed a small group of students in one of the hallways of the school, raising my eyebrow at the crowd. I was about to pass by when I saw Firey Speaker Box standing in front of the group. This must've been the place... I went to slide and join the small crowd, feeling everyone slowly gather and come together in front of him. I was a little uncomfortable with the number of people here, though, I knew I had to suck it up and deal with it.

Risking dying because of weak friendships is the last thing I would want here.

Or dying in general.

A few minutes seemed to have passed as everyone else had slowly noticed us and joined in. The entire class was here by now and Firey Speaker Box seemed quite pleased at the sight. "Wow! You all actually came. Maybe you guys value your lives... That's sweet to hear!" He let out a mechanical chuckle, before moving his arms out and showing the entire hallway to everyone. "This is the dormitory corridor! Where all of your designated rooms are! You should be in there by 10 PM, with the exception of today since it's your first day of school after all!"

He began to walk backward, before turning around and facing

forwards. "Each room has a symbol representing YOU as well as your name. There's barely any way to mix your room up with someone else's! Unless you're stupid. That's an option." I noticed him tilt his head, laughing again to himself. "So, go ahead! Look around and find your room." He went to stand at the end of the hall, facing back to us.

There seemed to be a lot of hesitance among the group... Probably still processing it.

"What are you guys waiting for? Can't be that hard!"

Snowball growled. "Yeah! Pussies!" He said as if he wasn't also hesitant. I rolled my eyes a little at him... He seemed like somebody who'd do stupid things to get himself killed. Well, I'd know to definitely not be like him. I watched as Snowball began to walk forward, looking over at each door. A little hesitant, I went to follow suit. I wanted to check out my room and get some rest for the night. Today was quite a lot to process and I'd prefer to be alone to do that.

The room in question was... quite basic. It was yellow-colored, with hints of purple around the room. It had a dresser, bed, and desk. Practical things that students would need in their dorms, I'd presume. The walls were decorated with posters and things of myself, making me wonder if the four behind this had really broken into my house or had gotten such things via other means. While looking around, I had noticed a very interesting thing included among the decorations. It didn't seem very fitting, though, I decided to not question it too much...

I suppose a knife rack wouldn't be fitting for, anyone's room.

I noticed another door in the room, going to walk over to see what it was once I had taken off my boots to walk simply in my socks. To my surprise, they had actually respected our privacy and decided to give us our very own personal bathroom! What a lovely treat. I glanced down, noticing the smiley face carpet as I went to walk onto it and observe inside. It had everything needed, including a mirror to look at my covered face.
Amusing.
I held my arm a little, observing the clock in the bathroom as it had

ticked towards late-night, close to midnight even. "Right, just. Head to bed." I audibly spoke, knowing that I could now that I was alone. The sweet relief of silence in the area was great. Something I had always cherished and enjoyed.

I lay onto my bed, going to release my tie and place it to the side. I moved my hand to my mask, gripping it, and was about to take it off before hesitating and quickly moving it away. I had a feeling I was being watched... Probably by those damned robot fuckers. I didn't want to take it off quite yet. Not until I know what I'm actually dealing with. I moved the blanket over myself as I went to begin to doze off in my mask once I had turned off the lights.

It was quite easy to, after all, it was... a very long day for a lot of us.

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okay before you say anything about the protag I AM NOT BIASED it was mostly because of a joke that i took too far please don't kill me oh also!! expect more frequent uploads, mostly since christmas break is kinda cool tbh! <3

edit: 11/6/23
hi so awhile ago i used to have the cover have yf uncensored after this chapter but later on i was told that this was a kinda bad idea so i wanted to show it here for anyone who's reading after that.

EXITRONPA 2
ROAD TO INSANITY AND NEVERMORE!

[1] Snack Break!

I rose from my bed, yawning and raising my arms out. "Nng..." I processed it was morning by now, of course. I slipped out of bed, grabbing my tie from the bedside table and tying it back on my suit as I went to get ready. I felt the feeling of hunger suddenly hit me, realizing that I needed to find wherever the fuck food was held here. I headed into the bathroom to use the supplementary hair comb to brush my hair out and put on my boots before going to head outside of my room and figure out where it was.

I noticed a few people outside of their rooms, like 1 or 2, but I paid no mind to them as I had other priorities than speaking to others. I looked around, trying to ignore the views of others as I kept trying to find the damned place. The place was pretty large, to say the least. I could barely figure out where everything was.

After a small search, I had finally encountered a room that was similar to the gymnasium. Rather instead of that, it was a long table in the dead center of the room, with an open window leading to another room. I figured this was the cafeteria as there were quite a bit of people here. I looked over to the window, assuming that was where you'd get the food. "Err... Is anyone behind there?" I spoke, tapping on it as I noticed somebody there. Donut looked back at me from behind the window, where was the kitchen. There was an open area where you could easily enter the room but I chose to stay behind the window for privacy's sake.

"R-Right... What would you like sir?"

I leaned on the wall, leaning in. "What do you have?"

"J-Just the normal stuff, does a bagel with cream cheese sound okay?"

"I don't mind."

"A-Alright, coming up!" He called back, going deeper into the kitchen. I watched him as he was preparing what I had asked for, figuring he found a bit of comfort in doing his talent in such a place. I watched in amusement for a few more minutes until he had handed me my bagel. I took it, thanking him. "Perhaps some water as well, please?"

He nodded, going to grab an empty glass cup and fill it up with fresh water before handing it over. "Enjoy." He spoke, moving his glasses up to his face as I took off the cup. "Thank you." I had a small smile on my face, but it wasn't clear due to the mask. I turned away, going to go and sit down and enjoy my food... Well, not really. I hesitated as I sat, moving my mask forward with one hand and using my other hand to bite into the bagel that I was given. It was also how I was drinking the glass of water I was given. It was the best way to eat without revealing myself after all.

I could feel the presence of someone watching me, looking in the corner of my eye to notice Profily observing me. I flinched a little once the realization hit me, taking another bite before moving the half-finished bagel out from underneath my mask and moving my mask back. "...What?" I squinted a little at them. Profily shrugged. "Oh, nothing! Just... Wouldn't it be easier to eat without the mask?" They tilted their head in curiosity, moving their hand to grab it. I quickly went to scoot back, swatting their hand away. "No. I'll be fine." I frowned.

Eggy seemed to have noticed the small commotion, going to look up from her food. "They do prove a point... You also look quite odd trying to eat with it on."

"Yeah!"

"I prefer to not unhide my mask."

"Understandable, but how come?"

"..."

I went to stand. "I prefer to not discuss those matters." I looked away as I went to quickly leave the cafeteria, bagel in hand as I went to leave and get away from the others. Topics such as that are...

something I wish to not indulge into unless it's truly needed. Which in this case, it's not. Not at all. I've barely met these people and risking shit like that is a death sentence. Perhaps quite literally.

I finished off my bagel as I walked down the halls, knowing an entire day was ahead for me. The best way to pass the time was most likely to speak to others. Something that might be a double-edged sword. I sighed a little to myself as I finished the bagel, dusting the crumbs onto my pants. I began to hear the soft noise of whimpering as I approached a specific area, raising an eyebrow.

I noticed Woody, curled up into a ball sitting on the floor. "...Hm." I was about to pay no mind to the other until I heard his noises grow louder, his hand reaching out for me. I paused, hesitant. I wasn't sure what the literal fuck he wanted...

He didn't even seem fit to be here.

Who the fuck is this person?

I went to walk closer, hands behind my back as I frowned behind my mask. "What." I tilted my head, growling. He stared at me weakly. "D-Do... you swee?" His voice was weak and hoarse, as he suddenly went to grab me and tug me. I barely felt it as he seemed so frail and weak.

"What the hell are you talking about-"

"I-It's twere... The.." He whimpered before letting go and suddenly turning away. "Mm.. N-Nevermwind-" He stammered, as I quickly went to back away from him. I glared. "You fucking-" I moved my fist up, twitching a little from the contact he gave.

I slowly took a deep breath, before lowering the fist. I held my arm. I'm not an idiot... "...Don't touch me ever again." I formally addressed, before turning away and leaving the boy be.

I wasn't going to just... let an idiot like that make me risk it all! I'm not the type to kill.

Not unless it was for self-defense.

But knowing here? It's a risk that shouldn't be fucking taken.

Everyone here should hopefully know that. Though, I'm not too sure what is even intended to happen after the body's been discovered.

Wait.

Why the hell am I thinking about this again?

I shouldn't let it clog my thoughts...

I'm smarter than that.

I went to look up at the clock as I had wandered around and went to relax in my room for a few hours before leaving back out. It was late noon, which would be the perfect time to eat some food. I intended that to be the last thing I would do before I left for my room for most likely the rest of the day.

Entering the cafeteria, I was met with the scent of food as there was a decent amount of people still there. I thanked Donut once again for the meal as I grabbed a tray and went to sit down. I had no real preference on who to sit with, choosing a corner to sit on. I moved my mask out, looking down at my food as I moved the fork into my mouth and chewed.

The taste of food wasn't too shabby, quite amused. It was a good way to think about something else, humming a little when I had noticed somebody sitting next to me. I went to finish the bite I was taking before moving my mask back and placing down the fork.

I glanced up to the person beside me, who was Bottle. She gave an innocent wave. "Hi!"

"What do you need.."

"Huh? I don't want anything! Just wanted to uh... talk to someone!"

"..Talk to someone?"

"Yeah! Don't you usually like to talk to people too?"

"...No?" I was a little confused.

"Well... It's nice to! Especially when you have friends to talk to! Surely you have that!"

I simply frowned in response, glancing to the side and going to try to continue eating my food. I didn't really know what her intentions were... If it was for good or evil.

"..Huh. Well, I can be your first friend!"

I choked on my food a bit, looking back over. "...Really now. We practically just met and you want to be friends now?"

"Well... Yeah! Why not?"

"It really does sound stupid to just be friends like that."

Bottle let out a small gasp of surprise. "Well uh... It doesn't to me! That's what matters. As long as you think that, then it's okay!"

"That in itself is stupid."

"Come on! Just give it a chance!" She went to lean on the table a little. "Teehee, I'm sure you might learn new things if you dooo~"

"Oh, really now?"

"Yeah! Friends help and support you all the way."

"Possibly backstab you too..."

"So what?"

I paused, giving a small glare as we were making eye contact now. "So what? Wouldn't you be pissed?"

"Hmm... No!"

"..."

"I mean, you found out that they weren't the right match for you. That's all!"

I wasn't sure how to respond, trying to comprehend what she was

saying. I held my arms, frowning at the thought. I sorta lost my appetite from the conversation, growling a little to myself quietly. The thought of trusting friends sickened me. Especially during a situation like this?

Hell no.

Though... Out of the small goodness of my heart, I sighed.

"I'll consider."

I could see her perk up from the corner of my eye as I had turned back to trying to eat my food, even if my appetite wasn't quite there anymore. "See? Just look on the bright side of things! This could be a fun experience..."

"If you survive, that is."

"Of course! But it's worth making your possible last moments the best it can!"

I rolled my eyes a little at her comment but softened up over the thought... For now though, it was best to just keep on my guard. Who knows what may happen. I went to finish most of my meal, before getting up. "...Right. Well, I'll see you later." I didn't look back as I went to walk to the trashcan and dump my food. I could hear her speak as I went to leave.

"You too!"

I went to look up at the clock once I had left the cafeteria. For my first day of being completely stuck here... It wasn't too bad, honestly. Though I wasn't going to be optimistic, I knew the future was dim...

As well as bloody.

Very bloody.

I headed for my room, going to walk inside and close it afterward. I knew I was never truly alone with the lack of locks for the doors but I knew there was really no point in trying to barricade it with there being barely anything I can do it with. I'd have to give the benefit of

the doubt, looking around as I chose to relax there for the rest of the day before heading to bed comfortably for the day.

[1] Blooming Flowers.

I had stumbled after my room after a nice night's sleep, going to walk straight to the cafeteria to get something quick to eat before quickly leaving. I felt mildly more irritated than normal today, isolating myself from others seemed like the best choice of action.

I felt oddly shaky today, probably just a stupid off day... Happens sometimes. Figured it was just weird to adjust to such an environment. I don't know anyone here at all.

Though... It did seem like some people knew each other already, which puts me at a decent disadvantage depending on how close they were.

Oh god, the thoughts of siblings being here... Or eugh, even people dating.

The thought revolted me, as I quickly tried to clear it out of my head. I crossed my arms as I had finished and threw the wrapper of the chocolate bar off onto the floor. Nobody would care anyways.

Well, so I thought.

"Hey! Pick that up!"

I turned around, confused as I heard the voice of a girl behind me. "...The hell-" I looked over at Pillow, who had her arms crossed and was raising an eyebrow at me.

"You heard me, pick it up!"

I chuckled a little at her attitude, smirking under my mask and putting a hand to my side. "Oh, and why should I do that."

"Hm..." She thought, before taking out a clipboard. "Let's see... You're

really insecure, so taking off your mask and throwing it right to the trash seems like a good deal. Hm?"

"...Excuse me?" I growled, suddenly holding onto my mask. I glared. "Alright, alright! Don't touch the fucking mask or you get it."

"You're just going to get punished if you do that, silly!"

I paused, frowning. She wasn't wrong at all... But I wanted to prove a point. "Whatever..." I huffed as I leaned down and went to pick up the small wrapper, glancing around for a trash can and throwing it in there instead. I looked back at Pillow, frowning.

"Better?"

"Yep!"

"Good. Now fuck off." I hissed before turning away and quickly walking off as I looked back to watch as Pillow give an innocent smile before quickly giggling and running off. I was quite confused until I had suddenly bumped into someone, tripping and falling over. I winced in pain, rubbing the back of my head as I looked up to see who the hell it was.

...Oh.

Foldy looked down at me, raising an eyebrow at me as I slowly took out my hand. "Ughh..."

"Oh, so Mr. I-Won't-Share-My-Name needs help now?"

"What?-" I glared. "No, I can get up just fine!"

Foldy had her hands on her sides. "Explain why your hand's out then." She sneered as she went to gently kick my side. "See? Maybe I would help you if I got your name..."

"Is this seriously what this is about?!"

"M-hm."

"Oh for fuck's sake... It's Yellowface. Does that help?" I snapped,

annoyed before I felt Foldy's hand grasp around mine as she pulled me up. I was a little relieved as I looked over at her.

"Yep. That's all I wanted."

"You're a dick..." I grumbled under my breath as I held my side in a bit of pain. I dusted myself off, before going to wave and look away. "Buh-bye now, I hope the next time I see you is dead." I growled before turning away and trying to leave. I didn't look back, making sure I didn't make the same mistake. I wasn't very happy with how this day was going so far, twisting my hand into a tight fist as I was on the verge of just punching the goddamn wall. I held myself back, taking a deep breath as I knew I had to control my typical urges to do things that I'll definitely regret. I sneered a little to myself at the thought of giving myself even more burdens to deal with. I've had enough.

I crossed my arms in annoyance as I was trying to find someplace to rest. The school felt goddamn tiny... It doesn't help that what seemed to be other floors were totally blocked off somehow. I thought it would be best if I didn't try to break through them anyways... It is particularly odd.

I went to approach where the blocked-off stairway was, out of boredom to see if I could peek through it. To my surprise, somebody was already there.

Puffball was trying to move the debris blocking the way up to the next floor, growling as she dug her foot down onto the floor. Her face gave off a determined look as she tried to tug at it. Unfortunately for her, it didn't seem to budge. I snickered a little, leaning against the wall and speaking up. "You know you look absolutely idiotic when you do that, hm?" She turned around, glaring at me. "Oh, shut the fuck up." She ran her hand through her hair, sneering at me. "I bet you can't even move it even if you tried!"

"It's blocked off for a reason." I frowned underneath the paper mask hiding who I was inside. "Best you stop before you get found like this... Who knows what ridiculous punishment you'd receive."

"Ugh... Whatever. I wanted to check out more of the place above."

She grumbled, crossing her arms. I raised an eyebrow, a little hesitant but decided it'd be best. I moved off of the wall, sliding my hands behind my back as I chuckled. "We could go and look together, perhaps. There's probably something we managed to miss around here..."

"Hm... Fine. Probably better than dying because these stupid bots can't make up good damn rules." She huffed as she went to join me by my side. "So, where to?"

"I don't fucking know. Look, if we missed somewhere then it's probably obvious we don't know where it is."

"Jeeeeezz... No need to get all fussy for just a question!" She huffed, beginning to make her way forward. I followed after, as the both of us decided to spend the rest of the day together looking through every nook and cranny of this place.

There really wasn't much... The hallways felt endless at times. I swore we were going into circles until we had found a particular hallway that seemed to branch off away from everywhere else. "Hey, Yellow. Check this out!" She pointed, smirking at me.

I raised an eyebrow. "Huh... Maybe there really WAS something we missed. Come on now, let's see what's over here." I urged, as I walked and looked around. The place was quite nice, actually. It was a small hallway that only led to one room.

A room we truly never had seen before.

"What's in here?" Puffball squinted, walking inside. She covered her mouth a little, surprised by the sight. The hell? I walked inside, a little confused by her reaction until I took in the sights.

They had a garden.

The place was quite dead, actually, but there were still a few green plants growing in the place. I smirked a little at the sight. "Aw, how cute... There must've been some sort of gardening club." I chuckled, before glancing over and noticing another person among the plants.

Rocky was comfortably sitting in the dirt, sitting beside a plant and

happily humming. I could see Puffball giving me a confused look in the corner of my eye before looking over to where I was towards him. "Ohhh... Didn't know someone liked this place~" She chuckled teasingly. I nudged her in mild annoyance. "Leave him be," I grumbled. "There's no reason to be so rude to a child." I defensively said, crossing my arms.

Puffball squinted. "Jeez, when were you so touchy over a kid? He's just a fucking kid!"

I looked away, not responding to that. "...Whatever. Do you plan to talk to him RESPECTFULLY or not?" I raised an eyebrow, shifting focus towards her more. Puffball sighed. "Ugh... Fine. Only because you seem like you'd choke me or some shit if I didn't."

The both of us looked back over to Rocky, who had seemed to heard the commotion as he was standing and looking at us in a bit of confusion. He gave a small wave. "H-Hi..?" He tilted his head, giving an intrigued look. "W-What... both doing.. here?"

"Oh uh..."

"Pssh, we were just looking around. This place's boring." Puffball scoffed.

"O-Oh! Well... T-This place is nice..."

"...Hm, I could tell." I spoke. "Needs a bit of tending though, hm?" I went to scoop up one of the leaves with my hand and examine it.

"Uh, duh?" She leaned over my shoulder. "This stupid place seemed abandoned for like, awhile before those stupid robots probably did shit here." She leaned on me a little. I glanced back, swatting her away as I went to part from the plant. "Hm... Could be nice to try to fix it back up together.." I suggested.

"I-I'd like that!" Rocky raised his hand a little, fidgeting with his suspenders with his other hand. "T-This place is so... nice! I'd... love it being good..." He softly murmured, glancing around. I looked over to Puffball. "Hm, I'll perhaps come swing by sometimes then. Maybe we could do a bit of gardening if you'd like..."

"Yes!-"

"Oh, don't keep up false promises." She nudged me. "Well, this place isn't my type of room so don't expect me to join you guys." She grinned a little. "Maybe there's some sort of recording room... Would love to be at a studio again." She ran her hand through her hair as she said that, turning over to the door. "It's probably getting late anyways. We should get going anyways! Come on, boys."

I rubbed my side in irritation, rolling my eyes. "Right right... Just go, I'll follow."

"Oh, if you say so~"

I looked back at Rocky after she began to walk off, "Come on little guy... Just follow beside me. Okay?"

Rocky looked at me curiously, thinking for a little. "Mmn... W-Well.." He played with his hands a little nervously. "C-Could I... ride you?"

"..."

I stared at him a little in surprise. What the hell does he...

I decided to not think too much of it, rubbing my shoulders a little nervously. "...S-Sure. You can." I awkwardly spoke, going to lower myself down so he could crawl himself onto my back and ride on my shoulders. He was sort of heavy, but I decided to make do with it. I began to walk out, being careful to not accidentally hit him against anything as the three of us had eventually gone to our rooms. I dropped off Rocky before heading into mine and finishing off the night.

[1] Dark Nightmares...

I woke up with mild back pains, assumingly because I wasn't quite used to another human being on my shoulders. I groaned but eventually was able to move out of bed to head outside. I squinted, trying to pull out my PDA to check the time as it was a little later in the morning but not quite the afternoon. Figured I'd get some brunch if anyone was still in the kitchen.

Whatever, I could make my own food anyway.

I walked into the cafeteria to be met with a few people, not making eye contact or not giving mind to who was there. I headed into the kitchen where I was met with nobody inside. Donut probably had stopped serving a bit ago... Which is understandable in itself.

I toasted some bread and went to try to get the damn coffee machine to work... I knew how to use it. Why is this machine so-

"Do you need some assistance?"

I stumbled a little in surprise, turning myself over on my heel to face the voice as I held onto the mask to keep it in place as I swiftly caught my balance. "Err- M-Maybe." I noticed the person who had just come into the kitchen was Tv, who was giving a small and awkward smile.

"Hm, let's see here..." He squinted a little, going to approach the machine and begin to mess with it a little until it seemed like it was whirring and working. "There! Try now!" I pressed the button as I was pleasantly surprised to watch it dispense the coffee I wanted. "Ah, wonderful." I went to grab it and drink it, wincing a little at the sudden bitter taste keeping me up.

"Don't you uh, add anything in your coffee?" Tv looked at me, tilting his head in what appeared to be mild judgment. I frowned. "...No? Is

that an issue?"

"Oh, no! Not at all... I-I was just wondering."

I rolled my eyes. "..Right." I snatched my piece of toast from the toaster and took a bite from it. "There we are... Don't you have other things to do?" I was curious as to why Tv was still here, standing awkwardly. He shook his head, letting out a chuckle.

"Oh, no... I sorta was just looking for people to accompany, if you don't mind that is!-"

"Hm." I hesitated a little but nodded. "Sure, I don't mind... Not like I have anything else to do." I took another good sip of the coffee, being much more aware and awake now with it in my system. "A-Ah! Great.." He smiled, going to begin to walk. "Maybe it'd be best suited if we leave here and head to where food and drinks should be designated." He urged, as I reluctantly followed him out back in the cafeteria. I took my time, being careful to not spill the slowly cooling down coffee as we headed to a table to sit. "Hm..." I went to take a bite of my toast, deciding to my thoughts slowly drift off into things not best suited to be expressed.

"I-Is there something troubling you?"

"...No.." I muttered quietly to myself, going to take a weak sip of my coffee. I felt tired... Though, at the same time, I was quite awake. Very much due to the assistance of coffee in my system. I wasn't sure why I was thinking about such bitter things... It was in the past, after all.

Let's keep it like that.

"Hello? A-Are you sure?"

I gripped my toast, nodding. "Yes, please don't worry too much about me." I calmly said after a moment of hesitation and taking a breath of relief. "I'm just... not feeling it today." I had my mask lifted a bit so he could probably see my mouth peeking out from underneath, but the rest of my face was hidden in anonymity. "I... see." He nodded a little curiously, before looking away and trying to pull out his PDA hidden

from me. He fished it out, going to lean down on the table and look through onto it. "...Huh, didn't think they'd have all of the information about people here." He commented as I finished up my breakfast.

"Do they now?" That mildly creeped me out.

He nodded, going to show the screen of his PDA to mine, presenting information of myself... It was oddly accurate. Too accurate. "..Oh." I had no words, a lot of it was right.

It worried me how exactly they would've gotten such information in the first place, though, they seemed quite kind enough to hide my identity as well as showing my so-called "Ultimate" under question marks.

3 of them, to be precise.

"I-It's quite weird... Though, hopefully, they didn't go through extreme measures to get all of it."

"I'm sure they were just watching us. Probably planned this out for a while, it's a game about murder after all."

"...I-I guess... The thought makes me upset.." He admitted, twiddling his fingers in mild embarrassment. "S-Sorry, I'm... not the most strong-hearted."

"Huh? I don't quite expect anyone to be taking our situation well... I mean, nobody would kill. We'd just be stuck here for quite a bi-" My words were thoroughly interrupted by a well-timed announcement. I finished the rest of my coffee as Tv went to move it back to himself. "Oh dear..."

"Something wrong?" I tilted my head as Tv went to scoot over to me to show me what was playing on his screen. It was those stupid robots onstage, Announcer, as he calls himself was standing right at the podium with his hands behind his back. He went to move himself close to the mic as his mouth hinged open and words began to come out of his mouth.

"All students please meet at the auditorium ASAP. Everyone

must attend, or else consequences will be held." His voice twisted to something much more sinister at the last part of his statement before the PDA had briefly turned off before booting back up at the home screen again. The both of us had looked at each other for a brief moment quite awkwardly before I had decided to speak up as I lowered my mask to cover my entire face again.

"...So."

"...I-I guess we know where we're going next!-" He chuckled awkwardly, quickly going to get up and take my hand as we both began to head out to the cafeteria. I noticed Pie also leaving alongside us, as I awkwardly tried to stick by Tv's side and not look at her. I felt her eye glance over at me a few times, probably thinking I was suspicious... Well, it's not exactly my fault I didn't feel the most comfortable around her right now. Something was about to happen.

Telling from our situation?

It's quite obvious to about all of us that this something would not be good. So, we kept walking until we met ourselves at the auditorium where all of the students were slowly grouping before all of us had come back here. It was odd seeing everyone in the same spot once again, though, obviously not the worst thing to happen. I would just wish no eyes were on me.

"Welcome back students. I hope you've been getting quite comfortable in your new living conditions." He had a slight smile plastered on his face. It was clear that it was fake, hiding the true intentions that he had. "But, unfortunately, we've had no... incidents, occur quite yet. So, hopefully this new..." He pondered for a little, glancing over to the other 3 who were right by his side.

"Hm~ Surely you must mean encouragement..."

"Oh yeah! We planned a motive if none of the kids had decided to take another's fate in their own hands, right?" Firey Speaker Box questioned, going to lean on Flower Speaker Box. She didn't seem to mind, but had a small flinch in reaction. It was as if the bots were just as lively as fleshy human beings were...

"Ah, of course..." He chuckled at their eager responses. "**An incentive to progress this. Perhaps we may only do this once now... Perhaps every time.**" His slight smile turned much more into a sinister grin now, the true side showing as he spoke about what he had intended us to do towards each other. The thought was revolting.

"We've had a few cases where the students decided to finally take things into their own hands... Hopefully you'll eventually do the same and make things easier for all of us." He bitterly said. None of the "students," as we were called had spoken a word the entire time. It didn't seem like we would as we were all trying to take in what they had in mind for us next.

"So, let's tell you what you'll need to deal with unless you murder. Hm?"

There was a tad bit of hesitance until Announcer had decided to speak, smirking. "Let's say it all together now... Shall we?"

The three had nodded, all crowding the podium with the microphone that was likely wired to hidden speakers around the gymnasium. I braced myself as dread filled me when the first "motive" as they had decided to pick out for us had expressed themselves.

"YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO SLEEP UNLESS SOMEBODY KILLS! If we catch anyone doing so, fatal consequences WILL BE HELD!"

I dropped my mouth, taking a small step back. I knew this wasn't going to end up well... I tended to value my sleep quite a bit and having to destroy it to not risk what I assume is certain death is something I was not exactly looking forward to. I noticed Tv get a little nervous at the announcement, but not making any moves.

"So we all will end up dying anyways in *5 days* if we don't kill?" Pillow suddenly questioned in the group, tilting her head at the group of 4 up above us all. Flower Speaker Box chuckled at her question. "Ah! Of course, our little researcher has studied such things... You're quite correct. Maybe even sooner if your body can't take it.~" She laughed. "Hmph." Bomby looked to the side, rubbing the back of his head with his arm. "So, someone's going to die either way in 5 days."

"Seems like it..." Eggy went to move her glasses up her face.

Bottle giggled. "Teehee! I'm sure we won't have to worry about it tooooo much! I mean... It's 5 days that we can make our days last!"

"...Won't have to worry about it? Are you FUCKING serious!?" Snowball's loudly denounced, giving a glare at Bottle. "Of fucking course we should worry! WE'RE GOING TO DIE IN 5 DAYS!" I had looked over to him, squinting at how pissy he was getting over this... Something else I had noticed, though, was Ice Cube hiding behind him.

Rocky winced, covering his ears as I noticed Eggy going over to try to calm him down as he seemed like he was on the verge of tears about the small conflict ongoing. I felt a little relieved as Eggy was there to help him.

Puffball squinted, going to take her arm out and frown at him. "No need to get your dick so tight out of this." She sneered. "Somebody's going to die. We all know this."

"That's even MORE reason to worry!"

"Heyheyhey- C-Can we all not argue?!" Donut winced as Snowball growled loudly at everyone else. "Are you all actually damn serious???"

Needle groaned a little. "This is stupid... Let's just all split up so we don't need to watch a big fight happen. Okay?"

"Yeaaahhh... Cmon Snowbud! I'm sure we can sort things out. Maybe do fun stuff!" Profily smiled. "Like sleepovers!"

"Is that even allowed..." Pie raised an eyebrow, glancing over to the stage. I looked over, assuming there'd be some response though to my surprise the four of them had suddenly disappeared. We were all just left there to understand the situation. Tv decided to speak up a little to add to the conversation. "W-Well, whatever it is... I'm sure we'll manage something. Right?"

Foldy scowled. "Yeah, not with this big asshole."

"HEY!"

I frowned. "...I'm just going to leave, let's go Tv."

"Huh-" He looked over. "O-Oh, okay!" He went to accompany me as I went to quickly speedwalk my way out of there, unable to comprehend my feelings as I had to take in the fact that somebody was going to die in less than a week.

Even if I like it or not.

[1] Glad for some Mocha!

I quickly walked out of there, probably visibly upset as I had glanced over to Tv. He had a worried expression on his face, biting his lip a little. "A-Are you alright, sir?" He went to move his hand to my shoulder, making me perk up a little. Despite my initial instinct, I didn't have the motivation or care to get him to stop touching me.

I took a deep breath. "...Yes. I'm fine." I grumbled a little. "I would prefer to not have to stay awake for who knows exactly how long but I'm certain someone is bound to snap until then," I muttered lowly, trying to speak the last part mainly to myself as I didn't want to worry the other male. Though he did seem to catch it as he gave a look of concern. "...I-I see. Perhaps we should head to the cafeteria." He suggested out loud. I watched him as he gazed off in the distance, I nodded gently to the idea. "Sounds alright for me," I smirked a little to myself underneath my mask as we walked beside each other for the cafeteria. It didn't take us particularly too long, as we managed to learn our routes to get there. The place was beginning to get familiar... Which, kinda isn't a good thing.

I held my arms as we entered into the big, mainly empty area. There wasn't a student in sight, most likely since we had left the gymnasium first. I didn't feel like heading to the kitchen after the morning's incident, so the both of us had sat down at one of the benches and began talking to each other. I listened mindlessly as Tv was introducing more about himself and where he was from. It was quite nice to hear, really... Other people's backgrounds were something that had always intrigued me, as I wondered how people came to... how they are now.

I suppose I wonder about myself as well and look back at my past history, the events occurring at me, and whatnot.

I also sometimes wonder if what I do is a mistake or not. Due to the

experiences given though, I am unfortunately inclined to act like how I do. Even if I think it's quite cold myself... It's just a method of self-defense.

According to Tv himself, he had come from this school called Blue Bay Academy which was this elite school full of people interested in things like robotics like him. He likely was one of the best at his interests, which ended him up here. "...W-Well, I heard about this one boy who had attended this school before but apparently got suspended. I believe I've passed by him a few times, I-I can't recall his name though." He frowned a little. "I-I'm not certain how he was let back in, actually..." He trailed off, running his finger against the edge of the table. Listening to what he had to say interested me. "...Huh? Somebody who got suspended?" I raised an eyebrow, "When did he come back?"

"...Er." He shrugged a little. "I-It's all a blur." He rubbed the back of his head a little awkwardly. "A-Apologies!"

"No, no... It's alright." I bit my lip, mildly upset at the lack of information. It was something, but not enough. If anything it gave me far more questions than answers... Though, I would push that to the side for now. It was something I would prefer to research on when I had more information or something else. "Hm..."

"Hey." A voice suddenly spoke out, making both of us turn. I flinched a little, frowning at the sudden intrusion of thoughts. Pie gave a blank expression, holding 2 mugs that were letting off a bit of warm steam. "Do you want some coffee?" She offered, going to place them down and slide them over to us. I nodded as I went to lift my mask to reveal my mouth to enjoy the steaming hot beverage, thanking her with a small mutter as I began to taste the bitterness of the coffee down my throat. It felt welcoming. I was being careful to not burn my tongue off as I glanced over across from me and noticed Tv pushing the coffee away. "Is something wrong?"

"Hm? O-Oh, no... I don't drink coffee normally, that's all." Pie shrugged a little. "Suit yourself." I frowned. "...But at least drink at least some to make sure you can last all night. For me?" I cocked my head to the side, trying to give a reassuring smile as I put down my mug. It wasn't very often he could see my mouth, so I decided to take

a little bit of an advantage of it for once. Tv chuckled at my attempt to cheer him up, nodding. "Mmm... Yes, yes... I-If you do insist." He seemed reluctant but tried to keep a small and soft smile as he went ahead and sipped lightly at the dark liquid contained in the mug. He twitched a bit, wincing at the taste. "A-Ah... I'm... certainly not used to it." He weakly murmured.

I didn't respond as I went ahead to finish my coffee, wanting to get it done as soon as possible. Which took a bit of time due to how hot the coffee was when given to me, not exactly a complaint though. "You don't need to finish it, Tv." I insisted, watching as he seemed to pucker up at the mere taste of the bitter coffee. I figured there wasn't much put into it and he wasn't quite used to the taste as I was.

"...A-Are you sure?"

"Of course. Why are you so concerned about it anyway?"

"...W-Well I-" He began, stammering and trying to find the words. I noticed him glance over to Pie, who was drinking her own coffee as he quickly shook his head. "N-Nothing. I'll just not finish it if you're alright with that then." He huffed, as he went to push away the mug. He seemed quite cautious when pushing it away. I didn't give it much thought as I went to lower my mask. I looked over to them, giving a small nod as I announced my departure.

The two didn't seem to mind, but something at the corner of my eye noticed that Tv was being a lot more fidgety and twitchy... Maybe suggesting for him to drink coffee was a bad idea. Perhaps he'll feel better once it's morning, I'd just have to see. I knew sleeping was not an option, but feeling amused from my quite awake state, I knew that finding what I could exactly do stuck in my room alone would be a difficult feat. I'll manage though, perhaps leaving my thoughts to wonder or pretending to daydream about the real world... I never truly thought it'd be a privilege.

Well, it was only considering that the only way it'd be stripped from me was prison. Which, I guess I sorta am. A much more cruel and deceiving prison... Ugh, why am I trying to be metaphorical? I guess my thoughts really do wonder when I have far too much time on my hands.

Hopefully, the next day will be better for everyone.

[1] Lights, Snacks, Observe!

It felt like a long while until it was officially morning and the doors can be locked out. I had allowed my mind to drift, but not particularly too far to the point of a multitude of bad thoughts being able to flow into my head. "Hm..." I rubbed my eye a little tiredly, making sure my mask was securely on before enabling myself to tiredly leave the room. I felt like stumbling a bit, but I was able to get through it. I've managed to pull off all-nighters before. Well, never multiple in a row. Though I would have to break my record if I want to survive. I didn't know how long it'd take until someone did break. Perhaps 2-3 days, I'd estimate.

Realistically, it's bound to happen. It's just time to see what happens today. I walked myself to the cafeteria, taking a bit of time to find my way there due to how hard it was to focus on a single thing very well for me. I let my mind wander as I entered the cafeteria and had requested Donut, a cup of coffee. He gave a slight nod, taking off his glasses and rubbing his eyes before placing them back on and going to work on what I had asked for. I leaned against the wall as I waited, observing my surroundings to see my fellow "classmates" doing their own things. Some were clustered in small groups, while others seemed to prefer to sit on their own.

Not surprising at all.

Donut had handed me my coffee, as I quietly thanked him and headed to a fairly empty area for me to enjoy my drink. I had sat myself next to a group, having sat by the corner of the long table that intended to suit all of us. I wasn't quite hungry for breakfast and I could make some of my own anyway. The group consisted of a group of 3, as I was able to overhear their conversation of what they were planning to do.

"Hm... So it wasn't just me who was struggling to stay awake last

night?"

"Nope. Had to punch my arm awake a few times."

"Yeahh... We seriously need new stuff to do around here, like, I think it's because we were all bored or whatever."

"Huh? Like what?"

"Hm..."

Foldy grinned a little. "Hm... Maybe like a movie? I'm sure one of us probably has a Tv or something in their room." She leaned on the table, having been eating a pop tart with her free hand and gesturing with it.

"That doesn't sound too bad of an idea, Foldy..." Eggy pondered a little. "Perhaps we should ask the others about the idea. They may appreciate our efforts. What do you think?"

Bomby shrugged. "I dunno, maybe if we can find something to watch then it'd be nice I guess..."

I glanced away, a movie night of sorts? I didn't know if I'd be too particularly interested, but if the entire class would be there then I assume it'd be best if I also attended this event. I observed the three quietly as Eggy went to stand and clap her hands. "Oi! Can everyone look over here real quick? I have a suggestion for us if you want to help stay awake tonight."

Pillow tilted her head in curiosity. "Hm? What is it?" She was sitting beside Bottle. With the combined voices of the two, it was clear that there was attention being drawn to the two of them. I knew exactly what Eggy was about to say from the earlier overheard conversation, so I kept quietly sipping my coffee and partially paying attention.

"Well... Foldy, Bomby, and I thought about a small thing that we can all do together. Perhaps it'd be a good way to check on each other and make sure nobody falls asleep tonight." She put her hands to her back. "Perhaps a movie night may entice you all? It's obvious all of you struggled last night with staying awake since we aren't all quite used to it yet."

I noticed a squeal from another part of the table, looking over to see Profily sitting to themself and having a wide grin on their face. They seemed quite interested in the idea. "Ooh! I'd love that!! A fun movie with all of my buddies... That sounds absolutely fantastic!"

"...I-I like it!-" Rocky squeaked, Tv going to pat his head with a soft smile. "I certainly don't mind the idea either..."

"I'll consider." Donut suddenly spoke out, holding a nice cup of joe in his hand. "...I-I have a few other things to do."

"Psssh! Really Donut?? Like what? Plot a murder?" Puffball sneered. "Dude, no big deal. You can just do it before or after the damn movie!" Woody covered his ears from Puffball's harsh attempts at reassurance. "...Mng-" Eggy had looked over to the other two, giving a small nod. "Then it's decided. Does anyone perhaps have a tv in their room we can watch in?" She raised an eyebrow.

I certainly don't have one myself... I stayed quiet, figuring at least someone else would. Puffball nodded. "Oh yeah, we can borrow mine. Not like I'd use it for anything anyways... There's nothing good around here!"

"...Hm, I suppose we'll have to find something then." I decided to finally speak up, before hushing myself once more and going to finish my drink. Snowball growled. "And why the hell would I hang around with you bitches?! Especially with... girls!"

"Jeez, you're just asking for a death wish aren't you?" Foldy hissed a little, crossing her arms and looking to the side. Needle frowned. "Again?! Can you just stay quiet for once so we can enjoy some peace? I think A LOT OF US WOULD REALLY ENJOY THAT." She growled through gritted teeth.

Bomby frowned, covering his face in embarrassment. Eggy sighed. "Look, you can decide to come or not. It's probably for the better everyone comes so we can take a bit of time to bond and know each other." Bottle nodded. "Y-Yeah! Teehee, maybe we'll learn new facts from each other!"

"Not sure how but... Go off."

It felt nice to be able to do a headcount of everyone and acknowledge everyone was in one spot. Hopefully getting along for the most part. I kept listening until the conversation between my fellow classmates had died down and everyone decided to go back to their separate conversations. I knew I had to keep in mind to head to join the others at Puffball's room later on.

Finished with the cup of hot liquid, I waited for a couple of minutes before slowly sliding out of my seat and going to leave off to do my own thing. I didn't care to look back, wondering if there was something in the classrooms I could find and look into. I hummed to myself as I entered into one of the various quarters for teaching, as it was unsurprisingly empty. The school was clearly fit to suit more than one small class though it was quite unclear of what had exactly occurred.

Perhaps an incident?

Doesn't quite sound too out of the picture... Let alone these psychopathic robots clearly having gotten control of the school. The school seemed quite pristine as well. Well, I was certainly proven wrong in that department now, wasn't I.

I felt a breath of fresh relief as I was freely away from everyone else. The classroom looked nothing out of the ordinary, with plenty of desks scattered around the room. It looked fairly organized, besides the small amount of dust that seemed to be collecting over time. I wasn't sure how long it's been in such a condition, untouched... I think it's best if I don't find out either.

I ran my finger down the side of one of the desks, feeling dust collect as I squeezed it between my pointer finger and thumb to make it disappear into minuscule particles. I chuckled a little as I decided to admire my surroundings and the mere isolation of being alone until I had heard the faint sound of breathing from the dead silence of the room. I turned around, letting out a scream.

"hhHHOLYSHIT-" I backed up, nearly hitting against one of the desks as I saw Profily's head barely peering into the room as if they had been watching me. "H-How long- I-"

"Huh? Oh, I thought you knew I was here! I guess not..."

"N-No?! Were you following me this entire time?"

"Weelll...." They went to step inside, hands behind their back. They were giving an innocent smile, which only told me the mere opposite. "Maybeee....~"

"I see why they call you what you are..." I grumbled under my breath, adjusting my mask and making sure it didn't move too much from my sudden movements. "Look, what the hell do you-"

"I just wanted to hang out with someone! Is that soooo much to ask?" They went to lean on one of the desks, tilting their head and positioning themselves so that it was like their hands were supporting their head. "I think you wouldn't mind~"

"You're very wrong." I rolled my eyes, it being not very visible due to my precious face covering. "Now if you kindly will, I'm leaving." Making my way out of the door was easy at first glance, but I could hear the soft sound of whimpering from behind as I glanced back to watch Profily giving me the stupid puppy dog eyes that you'd see on kids when they're desperate for something.

A face I am all too familiar with.

"Seriously? Don't you have someone else to bother?"

"But you seem fun to be with... Everyone else has some other buddy but you don't seem like you do!"

I curled my lip into a bite, but without hesitation, I had spoken. "I have Tv." I wasn't completely sure of this claim, actually.

"R-Right." They laughed a little awkwardly, realizing their argument was immediately destroyed.

There was a pause after so. This situation was really awkward and I knew I needed to continue it somehow as I noticed them twiddling their fingers. "So... May I leave now?" I raised an eyebrow, going to begin to inch myself towards the door.

"Fineee... But this isn't going to be the end of things! I'll see you at the movie!" They giggled, before going to go and run out of the door before me.

I flinched a little as they sped past me, but I decided to not say anything as I dusted myself off and left back to the hallways. So perhaps checking out the classrooms wasn't the best option... Perhaps some others would prefer their peace. I'd like to keep that peace and not be like fucking them.

I fished the PDA out of my pocket, realizing that I had an hour or so until it'd be best to prepare for the movie night. I spent the next few hours, probably like 2-3 hours to make a mental image and note of the layout of the school. I'd be here for a while so the faster I figure this out, the easier it'll be to navigate later on when my mind stops functioning as well as it should. I checked my PDA once again after this and figured it should be an ideal time to stop by Puffball's room to see how things were going.

I spoke no words as I walked myself there, keeping at a steady pace to go quick enough where I am indeed making progress to get to my destination while also taking in my surroundings. My mind felt a little blurry, but it wasn't so bad. I kept my thoughts to myself, enjoying them as I noticed Puffball's door swung wide open. I figured people were there, as I peered inside and saw a small group of students being inside of there. It was quite obvious Puffball would be since it was indeed her room, but the presence of Eggy, Pie, Bottle, Pillow, and Tv was all also there as they were likely setting up for the movie night or just sitting around. I entered inside, smiling a little as I went to sit on the ground. "Oh, hey Yellow Face." Eggy waved a little, as I nodded in response to tell her that I am listening to what she was saying. The group went to get back to work as I knew it was slowly turning time to start the movies. The rest of the class slowly began to fill the room accompanying the pop singer as she was sitting on her bed and grinning. "Like my room? I know, it looks great." She playfully said, going to sit up. "Soooo... Have we found a fucking movie yet or what?"

"Doesn't seem like it..." Pie boredly said, sitting beside Bottle and Pillow as the two were poking at each other as if they were play-fighting. Tv sighed. "W-Well... We did bring out Bomby and Rocky to

find us a movie." Foldy rolled her eyes. "Well, if we don't find one soon then I'm heading to my room." She announced. "I ain't staying with all of you guys if we're just gonna sit around and do nothing."

"Everyone just wait. They should be here soon enough..." Eggy spoke, standing right next to the television as Tv was doing final tweaks to make sure it was good for the movie. She was tapping her foot on the ground quite impatiently as Donut had walked inside. Most of the class was here, only really missing Rocky and Bomby at this point. The fact about everyone had attended surprised me... "Took ya long enough, Donut! Come on and sit with me." She scooted, patting the side of her bed. "I don't bite~" She mocked. Donut rolled his eyes. "Y-Yeah, yeah..." He glanced to the side, muttering something that I couldn't quite catch under his breath before going to sit beside Puffball. The two seemed to know each other... Would be useful to note that down.

It felt like a while until Rocky and Bomby had entered into the room. "Jeez, took you assholes long enough!" Puffball hissed. Bomby frowned, rubbing the back of his head. "T-There isn't much we could find... But we did find a documentary we can all watch together about plants in the garden." He murmured, going to go and walk to sit down somewhere. Rocky nodded, holding the box containing the disc and skipping over to let Eggy put it in. Tv gave a small gentle smile at Eggy before going to go and sit beside me which I didn't mind particularly too much. I suppose I've grown quite fond of the other male. "T-There!" He chirped as he went to sit down as Eggy inserted the disc inside of the television as it turned on and began to play. Snowball frowned. "Jeez, this is already fucking boring!" He complained quite loudly.

"We just started-" Foldy raised an eyebrow. Profily shook their head. "Yeah! Shussh!" They made a loud hushing noise. I couldn't quite make out everyone's expressions but I could notice Tv's visor making a squinting expression likely over how everyone else was behaving. There were mostly hushed whispers, I assume exchanged between friends. Then the occasional complaint from, you guessed it, Snowball.

He clearly didn't seem quite fond of the movie that we had chosen. Puffball even had to get to the point to drag him out and talk to him

before they both joined us back. The documentary wasn't anything special, truthfully but it was something we could've all watched together and actually spend time doing. It was a good attempt at passing the time, I'll certainly say that.

It was quite uncomfortable being around everyone else like this but I preferred to not come off as suspicious if I didn't attend. Perhaps everyone did end up thinking like that... Though, this movie clearly didn't last too long. I'd assume about 2 hours? Though it did eventually end and we knew we probably had to head back to our individual dorms before things sorta got suspicious. I went to raise up from where I sat, letting everyone else leave as Puffball waved and snickered. "Oh, also Donut! You could also stay with me anytime y'know... We could catch up from the old times!" He looked back at her, frowning. "Mm... I-I'll consider. Alright?"

She nodded, as I left before I heard any more from the two. My room happened to be further down the hallway compared to Puffball's. I felt the presence of everyone leave the hallway as they all left to their rooms and I was about to enjoy this fading presence before I was delayed by a tap on the shoulder. I swiftly turned around and saw that Tv had tapped my shoulder. "What is it?" I had my hands behind my back, unsure what to make about him bothering me at this time. Well... I guess beggars can't be choosers when it comes to friends.

"...Mm... W-Well, I was just thinking of an idea. More of a suggestion actually!- I-If that's okay with you."

"Go on..."

"So uh... W-What if we hung out tonight? Like... a sleepover? Without the sleeping since... ya'know." He chuckled a little to lighten the mood. "I-It's your choice, of course, but... I was just wondering."

I hesitated a little, pondering a little... Was it a good idea to be accompanied by someone else? Well, I guess I could look at it like this. We could make sure the other doesn't sleep. It also helps pass the time. Though... I don't know if I want to hang out with people. I considered the late-night a great time to let my thoughts wander and have just some damn time to myself. Though, thinking about it the pros definitely outweighed the cons. "Hm, fine." I went to open up my

door, going to walk in and leave it open for him to enter before closing it. "Don't mind anything in it... Serves no importance to me, after all, I don't even know what my talent is."

"Ah, right..." He went to go and sit down on my bed, myself following after. "So... What do you usually do late at night? If anything of course." He spoke quite curiously.

"Hm, nothing important. Let's say that."

"...I see."

"Well, how about you?"

"Due to myself being surrounded by technology all the time in my room, the best method I've noticed for myself was simply just trying to create new things out of pre-existing technology. It's a nice pastime, actually."

"Interesting..." I squinted a little at the thought, but my face didn't visibly change due to the mask. Obviously. "Any progress with that?"

"Mm... U-Unfortunately not. Haven't found the right components in the machinery I've been given access to in order to find anything to make." He smiled a little. "I-It's always worth a try every night though... Wanted to take a break to try something fresh though. What do you think about that?"

"Hm?"

"Well... J-Just trying new things."

"...Well." I paused a little, thinking before tensing up and hesitating at the thoughts that filled my brain. I shook it off. "No, not really a fan of that. Not at all." I growled a little to myself. "Never really on my bucket list of things I'd like to do."

"Really now?"

"I find it better to stick to old things rather than newer things," I explained. "Why try new things when you could continue doing working old methods?"

"You certainly do bring up a point... I must say, your thoughts interest me a lot. H-Have you always had this mentality?"

"Does it look like I'd know? Well, yeah from what I remember I guess."

Tv nodded a little. "Mm... Understandable." He went to shift himself so that his legs were hanging off of the bed as he sat on the edge. "I-I guess I've always found a fascination in how others think." He gazed off, having a smile on his face. "People are so interesting to me... They're far different from mechanical things. They have their own thoughts and feelings and can express it so easily."

"Couldn't you just make robots do the same?"

"Hm... I suppose." He looked back at me, trying to make out my features from my masked face. "It wouldn't be the same as raw emotions... The raw emotions we feel." He bit his lip. "B-But I guess I'm getting ahead of myself."

"Hm, maybe." I didn't really know how to respond to this revelation that Tv had. It did interest me, but certainly nothing close to what Tv was thinking about. I wonder if he had this weird thing with human psyche... That sounds kinda creepy, honestly.

"I-I just have a lot to think about... Well, a-and comparing humans to machinery has been one of those sorta views I'd like to explore."

"Understandable... Well, you're free to talk about it all with me. I'm here to listen." I didn't exactly feel like speaking much, not wanting to tire my mouth as I would rather save that energy for actually walking and getting around. Tv nodded. "A-Ah, of course, I'd love to talk more about it!" He exclaimed in quite a bit of excitement.

I tiredly listened to Tv's voice for the next few hours. He certainly had a lot of things to say, some engaging me much more than others. I still think about that conversation we had the other day. Perhaps I should try to indulge and see into it more. Well, whatever it is, we were going to be here until another day. I guess things don't seem like they'll go wrong anytime soon...

Oh, what am I saying?

Things are going to go wrong eventually. Even if I like it or not.

It's far too predictable.

...I just hope I'm not the first victim.

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hi! random author's note here ^^ im hoping this chapter was okay, sorry if some aspects seemed too rushed we were already at 3k words and i wouldve probably died inside if i was forcing myself to write all of it in detail :')

[1] Midnight Paranoia.

It was about morning as I was muttering words in response to Tv's discussion. His voice had gone quieter over time through the night, as we sometimes took breaks of silence to not strain either of our voices too particularly much. "...Hm. Have we checked the clock lately?" I questioned quietly, watching as Tv perked up from the sound of my voice. It's been a small bit since either of us had spoken, likely having run out of proper conversation topics to speak about.

"H-Hm? Oh erm..." He glanced around, noticing the clock hanging up on my wall as he read out the time. "I believe i-it's morning now, yes." He smiled softly at me. I didn't give any sort of visible response back as I went to get up from the bed. "Well, that's swell then..." I chuckled a little weakly. "Shall we get some breakfast then?"

"Mm... Sure!-" He went to go and stand as I headed for the door. I opened it, leading the both of us outside into the hallway. It was the same routine as before as I had figured the path out from memory this time around. I could feel Tv's presence behind me as we walked into the cafeteria to be met by some of the other students. It was odd, though, as a good handful of them were missing... Frankly, I am starting to get a little worried about the lack of murder.

Don't get me wrong. I don't want it.

Though, I also would prefer to not die due to a lack of sleep... Doesn't sound like the nicest way to go, honestly. I gave a small glance at Tv, noticing him wander off and begin to walk elsewhere in the cafeteria. I didn't try to catch his attention or disturb him, as I headed for the kitchen to grab a cup of coffee before heading out.

I walked inside, going to prepare myself a cup of coffee to get through the day. There was Eggy in the kitchen, likely fixing herself a snack as she had a cup of coffee in her hand. We didn't acknowledge each other all too much, as we glanced at each other and gave a

small nod. I tapped my fingers on the counter as I watched the cup fill, grinning from underneath my mask as I grabbed it.

I lifted my mask slightly, going to take a nice sip of the coffee before going to head out. I looked around at everyone in the dining hall, going to make myself a seat where there was nobody else. I just wanted the coffee in my system so I could stay awake.

The thought of the consequences may be rather fatal, seeing how they acted so gleefully over the simple concept of murder.

No matter how brutal it was.

Well, whatever. I finished my coffee after a bit, going to stand and leave the cafeteria. I did sorta have a long day ahead of me and I needed to find something to do to pass the time. Perhaps speak to some people. Not the most ideal thing, but, it's better than nothing I'd gander. It was rather obvious a good few of us were using coffee to survive, hell, I doubt many people here would have pulled all-nighters. I did occasionally.

I do wonder how that kid's getting through this...

The thought brushed over my head, as I was a little concerned over the thought. I hope his death won't be too harsh, well, if he does die. You never know how hard people can push until it's too late. I hummed to myself, as I was in the hallways now. Nothing really crossed my mind at this time, as I was mostly drifting off... It was kinda uncomfortable, having to still get around despite the massive lack of sleep.

Luckily, the coffee has definitely been dandy for myself. I kept walking until I felt someone brush by against me, flinching in surprise and going to look at who it was. "Hm?" I glanced to the side awkwardly... "Wha-"

"...Oh."

Ice Cube was the person I happened to bump into, giving me a raised eyebrow. "Yes?" She went to turn over, moving her hands into her pockets. "What do you want." She curled her lip into a frown,

observing me. I felt a little uncomfortable with her prying eyes on me. I felt being watched all over my body by her eyes... It was odd, actually. "Hm? Erhm, I didn't mean to bump into you. A mere accident."

She raised an eyebrow, eyeing me from feet up to my masked face. "Uh-huh, sure." Ice Cube went to mess with her bow a little, glancing to the side. "The hell are you waiting for then?" She crossed her arms. I frowned. "Okay, okay... I'm going." I was about to walk off before a thought came across my mind. It did make me rather curious, so might as well.

"Say..."

"..?" Ice Cube looked over to me as she heard my voice.

I put my hands to my sides, smirking from underneath my mask. "What are YOU waiting for? I mean, you're just standing here as if you have nothing else to do... Perhaps you would like to be accompanied?" I offered, a little amused at the mere thought of her reaction. Ice Cube gave a skeptical glare at me. She seemed... confused, over what I had just said.

"Excuse me?" She glared, looking away. "Ugh, boys... I'll be fine on my own, thank you very much." She hissed before going to leave herself. My rather smug face turned into something of more confusion about what she had commented before leaving. I rolled my eyes. "Hm, figures..." I didn't know exactly what was up with her. I didn't see her around quite often really. She might be a lot more snappy with the lack of sleep, though. Best to not question it.

I went to walk around a little more, but with the lack of interest in the hallways, I had headed right back to the cafeteria to see what was going on there. I had missed lunch and kinda dinner but I decided it may be for the better I skip the meal so I don't accidentally fall asleep from being too full. There weren't many people in the cafeteria, not to my surprise obviously. Bomby seemed to be sitting on the table, basically alone as he had a coffee beside him. He seemed to be thinking about stuff, leaning on the table and tiredly looking out. I thought for a moment, before shrugging to myself and going to sit by him. "Hey."

"H-Huh?" He jumped a little at the sudden presence, looking over and staring at me. He seemed to take a bit to calm down, before rubbing the back of his head with his arm. "Ah. Sorry- I... I just haven't been the best." He grumbled, before going to lean back away from the cafeteria table as if it was an attempt to stretch.

"Oh, no worries. Things have been awful around here, I get it."

"...Thanks, I guess." He sighed. "I miss being out at work. My buds there were pretty cool." He started, crossing his legs and thinking.

I observed him. He didn't seem to be really paying attention to me anymore, probably talking to himself. Which I frankly didn't mind. It was a way to just pass the time and let myself think about other things. "Why the hell did I have to get stuck in here? I didn't really even plan to stay here for that long. Kinda was curious about what happened to a friend of mine though."

"Hm? What friend?" My interest was gauged again, speaking up as I wanted to press him further on this person. Perhaps it may be interesting to note.

He frowned. "Oh. Uh... We were sorta workout buddies. The kid wasn't that old, either. Last I heard of him was him bragging about how he got into this school. Never saw him since."

"...I see."

"Yeah... Miss him." He looked up at the ceiling. "I think he's gone now, seeing what's going on around here."

"Like-- Do you mean-"

"Obviously?" He looked back at me. "What else do you think I mean." He snapped a little, frowning at me. It took a few awkward moments for us to process the tension as Bomby had relaxed and looked away in hot embarrassment. "I-I'm sorry. I just... As soon as I heard of what's going on here, I knew the little dude probably had suffered a pretty bad fate."

I was honestly, confused. "Could you err... elaborate? Like, what do you mean by a 'pretty bad fate.'" I watched as he looked away, giving

a rather sympathetic look to him. He definitely seemed distressed, the lack of sleep was not helping him. I'd assume.

The construction worker had taken a sip out of his cup of coffee, before frowning. "I think there was *another* group who had gone through a killing game." He spoke cautiously, and almost in a hushed whisper. "One with my best friend in it."

"What?- Really?"

"...I dunno what else explains his disappearance."

"Well err..." I didn't know how to react. Oh my fucking god, were these robots actually experienced in tormenting people like us? That shit actually... made me sick to my stomach. I didn't want to think about it. "Noted." It did frustrate me a little, but I knew I couldn't do anything but play along... Hopefully for now.

Bomby gave a nod. "Thanks for uh, hearing me out. I just... don't know how to deal with the thought of him gone." He leaned forward in his seat, nearly burying himself into the table with the comfort of his arm. "H-He felt like a younger brother to me sometimes."

I knew I couldn't do much to help, besides listen. "All you could really do now is move on, unfortunately. I'm sure we can try to get through this." I spoke in reassurance. I knew how it felt. Though, that was something I would not tell him.

It's a secret for me to keep, after all.

I can't get too soft on these people... Not when they could kill me at any moment.

"I-I'll try."

I gave a small smile from under my mask, exchanging a simple nod as I went to get up. "Well, I think it's best I get going. Perhaps you should as well."

Bomby didn't look at me, only looking down at the table as I went to comfort him by patting him on the back before parting and heading out into the hallways. I felt horribly tired, knowing that I'd...

probably end up falling asleep if I do head back to my room. This resulted in me wandering for quite some time in the halls... I suppose I'd have to do this for a few hours.

Leave myself to my thoughts, hm?

Quite an unfortunate way to pass the time... I do what I must to survive though. The consequences that I may possibly receive would be far too high for me to try anything. I was leaning on a wall, looking at it tiredly when I heard faint footsteps that were getting louder and louder. I perked up, preparing myself to defend if it was an attempt at an attack. The person was getting closer, but slowed down when they had seen me. I couldn't quite make out who they were until they spoke.

"What are you doing out here in the halls?!" Needle spoke, stopping and looking at me in confusion.

"...Venturing around. I could ask the same to you."

She rolled her eyes. "Oh, figures. I was jogging around. Warm-ups, or whatever you'd call them." She shrugged. "It's the best way for me to stay up. Worked well so far." She thought for a moment. "You could join me if you want."

"Hm? Oh, gladly." I was amused to have company as I went to walk after Needle as she began to jog. She was slowing down to keep up with my rather slow pace.

"You don't do much active stuff, huh?"

"Not my forte, no."

"Eh, makes sense. Not for everyone."

I realized that we didn't exactly have much to talk about, as I muttered something under my breath. I pondered a little, as a question popped up in my head. I looked over at her. "Say... How did you get into running anyway?"

"I was naturally born fast. Why?"

"...Just wondering. Is all."

"Eh, alright."

"How far do you even normally run... Never really thought of marathon runners as a job."

"We get a rather good living off of it, actually."

I was a little stunned by that idea. "Surprising."

"That's what a lot of people say... Some people are just idiots when it comes to it."

"I suppose having an ultimate that gives you income is nice."

"Yup. Always gotta prepare for when's the next time I do one."

"If... you ever."

"Pssh, I'll probably try to find a way outta here eventually."

"I hope we all can..."

Needle looked at me. "Rather pessimistic, huh?" She huffed a little. "...Actually, I can't blame you."

"Thought so--" My words were suddenly interrupted.

I suddenly stopped in my tracks, Needle following suit as something rang through the halls.

A scream.

"W-What was that?" Needle stared up, trying to figure out what was going on.

I squinted. "Something happened. Stay here." I knew this couldn't be good news, as I began to head for where I had heard the scream... In the dormitory hall.

Needle hesitated. "Wai-" I didn't hear what she had to say as I left her.

Pillow was standing there, looking back at me as I entered the halls and saw the scene for myself. Bottle was accompanying Pillow, as the two were just staring at the sight of... *that*.

...

Snowball's body laid out, right outside of one of the living quarters as the door was swung wide open to reveal the body. He was laid out as if he was hung by his arms, his hands being above his head. There was a knife twisted right into his chest, his face full of fear as the life from him was sucked away. A bloody red path was following after the body.

I glared at the body, then at the two. "What the hell HAPPENED."

"I-I-" Pillow tried to speak, looking at Bottle for backup. The two seemed visibly shaken up... Which wasn't too surprising.

I raised an eyebrow. "Right... I'm getting-"

"HOLY FUCKING SHIT-" Needle yelped, probably just walking into the sight and taking a few steps back to process what was going on. As Needle entered into the scene, suddenly the PDAs on everyone began to ring.

I hesitated, looking over to Needle as she took out her PDA and turned it on for the rest of us to see. There was The Announcer, hands behind his back as he was chuckling. "Ah... It appears to us that *a body has been discovered*. Please report outside into the dormitory hallway." He spoke, with clear sinister intent in his voice. I went to look up at the clock, checking the time as it registered about like... 3-4 AM. The fucking audacity of this killer.

It was soon I heard the noise of doors opening and people coming out to the horror of the body.

Eggy squinted. "Yikes." She put her hands behind her back, looking back at everyone else. I could hear murmurs among everyone else, as everyone was visibly clueless and in disbelief of what to do. I mean... There's a literal dead fucking body. I looked around, noticing Tv as he shuffled over to me. "W-What happened?" He quietly whispered to me, looking at Snowball's corpse and then at me. In response, I could

do nothing but shrug. I wasn't sure myself.

It took a few minutes for everyone to process until we heard footsteps and all turned to see those damned robots standing there. Announcer had a smile plastered on his face, pleased to see the result of the dead body as well as the fear in all of our faces. "Lovely to see you all gathered here. Now you're all likely unfamiliar with what happens now so I, as well as the Speaker Boxes, shall inform you."

Flower Speaker Box sneered, "Mhm... Now, you'll all get some time to do whatever. Investigate, cope, or anything else that comes to mind!" Firey Speaker Box continued off of her. "Once that time ends, a class trial will be held. You all must report to the assigned trial room ASAP once you hear the announcement! If not..."

Puffball Speaker Box shrugged. "I suppose you'll have to face the consequences~"

Announcer smiled at all of us, tilting his head. "...Good luck. You'll need it." He turned away, going to leave with the other speaker boxes. It was not long until Donut approached the body and began to look at it. I went to look over at Bottle and Pillow. I knew I'd have to confront them at the supposed trial. After all... They were at the body first.

Not sure who the hell was the one who screamed though.

I looked over to the body, hesitant as I decided to pass over it and head for inside the dormitory to see what was inside. The blood trail that was connected to Snowball's body smeared the floor of the room, as the room was purple-colored, with a coat hanger with lab coats. I squinted...

Okay. This was definitely Pillow's room.

I hadn't looked at the plate of the door originally, but knowing who's room it was does rather make it rather suspicious. I wasn't sure if it was THAT easy though. I rolled my eyes over the thought. I noticed the place was a bit of a mess, the bed having clearly been used (which is rather odd knowing the motive of the murder) and the tv being on and playing. What I had noticed, right by the start of the

blood trail, was a towel seemingly from the bathroom covered in blood. Was this an attempt at cleaning the blood?

Must be someone inexperienced in this sorta thing. Not like that narrows down the suspects, per say. Just something to keep in mind. I raised an eyebrow, going to turn and look over to Donut and Bomby, who had joined him in looking at the body. I didn't quite know where the others had gone, though... The blood trail definitely came from inside the room.

It must've happened in the room.

Which... is odd, to say the least. I went to lean down, squinting at the blood and frowning. This was a new and fresh body. Which means we'd have to find alibis for practically minutes before.

Thankfully, I'd be fine.

I mean... Needle was with me the entire time.

For everyone else? I'd have to see.

Tv had joined me inside of the room, rubbing the back of his head awkwardly. "A-Any ideas on what happened?"

"Not quite... I think I'd have to know from a certain few people where they were. Perhaps we'll go from there. This shouldn't be too hard."

"R-Right."

"...We'll have to see if it's true though. I'll meet you at the trial," I said, before I went to go and leave the room. I yawned, knowing I could finally get some shut-eye after this... Assuming we do figure out what's going on.

The realization of how difficult this may be because of the lack of sleep dawned upon me...

Though, it should hopefully not set us back.

...Maybe.

--
yay first death!! hello folks, i got a motivation boost sorta outta nowhere and decided to (finally) finish this chapter up! dont quite have much else to say...

[1] First Case.

I had my hands to my back, frowning as I began to approach the trial room. Well, where I thought it was. Firey Speaker Box stood in front of two large doors, waving at everyone. "Right this way! Hurry up, we gotta see this juicy stuff go down!" He insisted, grinning a little mischievously.

I looked away from him as I entered into the trial room, observing the place. This certainly wasn't somewhere I had visited before... Probably only open for the supposed trials that were mentioned before. Well... The place seemed decently decorated, the main centerpiece being podiums that were set up in a circular pattern. I hesitated, looking as there were a few others already there. I went to take my stand at one of the podiums, knowing it was where I was intended to be as the podium had my name engraved into it. It was the same for all of the other podiums, having a name of each of the students written right on it. I moved my hand over it, feeling the wooden writing. I knew that it would soon be time to figure out who the hell did this.

It took a bit but after a few minutes, everyone eventually arrived and took their stand at the podiums. I stood beside Eggy and Woody, hands to my sides as we took a moment to process our current situation before Announcer chuckled. "Welcome students, to your first trial." He spoke loudly, making sure everyone could hear him. "Let me explain how this shall work for everyone, as you're all new. One of YOU remaining students have murdered Snowball in cold blood. All of you other survivors need to figure out which among you all did it." He pondered a little. "Now, if you manage to figure it out then the culprit, or in other words, the blackened will be punished. If not? All of the students except for the blackened will be punished instead... The blackened will be able to leave the school and live freely with the rest of society. Quite simple logic, really."

"So, best of luck. As the first trial shall begin... Now." He went to grab a gravel that was sitting beside where he sat, hitting it down and letting it ring. It indicated the beginning of the potential last minutes of my life.

-- WHO KILLED **SNOWBALL** ? --

Foldy shifted her position, eyeing everyone. "So... One of us killed him?"

"From what he said, yeah," Pie muttered, leaning on her podium a little. "How do we start with this."

"Well, shouldn't we actually start with what evidence we have?" Donut asked.

Eggy squinted. "Well, yes. Does anyone have any leads to start us off?"

"Well... M-Me and Yellow saw a blood trail." Tv rubbed the back of his head, trying to recall events. "I-It came from inside the room. So the murder must've happened in the room."

"Yeah but like, who the fuck owned that room?" Puffball sneered. "Can't get any leads if--"

"It's Pillow's." I interrupted.

"H-Huh?" Pillow perked up, surprised to hear her name mentioned. "What is it?"

Bomby rolled his eyes. "Explain why the body was in your room."

"I-I don't know! I was just out getting snacks in the kitchen." She stammered, shaking a little. "I-I must've left my door open or something."

Eggy huffed a little, glancing away. "Right..." She seemed rather skeptical about her claim but she didn't push any further.

I spoke up, "I was the 3rd person to discover the body. The first two were Pillow herself as well as... Bottle." I narrowed my eyes down to

her, raising an eyebrow. "Say, what exactly were you doing by the body so early?"

"Wh-" Bottle seemed surprised at my sudden accusation. "I-I went to go and look around to find movies for me and Pillow to watch! We were going to watch a movie together like we did as a class..." She mumbled. "Thought it'd be fun! Teehee?" She seemed rather nervous... Suspicious.

"That doesn't give us much leads..." Tv sighed. "Do we know how fresh the body is?"

Bomby gave a small nod. "Well, yeah! The blood was still seeping and fresh!"

"Did you two just *happen* to come back to the body?.." Needle frowned.

"I-I swear! That's the story!" Pillow whined. "P-Please, we didn't do it! I promise!"

Woody whimpered. "Nngg..."

"Guys, have we considered what everyone else was doing at the time?" Pie asked, leaning on her podium and eyeing everyone else. "Figure out what everyone else is doing before ganging up on someone. Before the rest of us are *killed*."

Rocky thought for a moment, giving a small expression of curiosity before speaking. "W-Well I.... was with Bomby! Garden..." He claimed.

"I can back that up!" Bomby added.

"Well, hm. If we're doing it that way then I was just with Needle in the hallways jogging."

Needle backed me up, which would obviously be the best choice seeing the circumstances. "Yeah! It can't be either one of us, we were with each other for hours!"

Luckily, confirming ourselves makes things a little less stressful.

"Well, was like... anyone with Pillow or Bottle?" Puffball snickered. "Can't ignore the main suspects' claims!"

"W-Well I..." Pillow trailed off, wincing as she went to use her pigtails to hide her embarrassed face. "I-I didn't have anyone with me." She confessed.

"....Or did you?"

"Huh-" Pillow turned over at the sudden voice, a little confused.

Profily grinned, waving playfully. "I was there! I watched Pillow grab chips... I wanted to ask for some but I got too nervous..." They timidly muttered, sighing a little. "She's okay though!"

"I suppose that clears up s-some confusion..." Donut mumbled. "I-I was with Puffball."

"Hell yeah he was!"

Hm, figures.

Foldy frowned. "So, still NO leads?"

"Well... Not precisely." Eggy sighed. "We gotta figure out a bit more. What else do we know about the body?"

"Well uh... I-I did notice a bit of struggle." Donut pointed out, "He was struggling to fight back."

"Isn't he like, super strong? How does that work?" Needle spoke out, confused. "So it needs to be someone super strong..." She narrowed her eyes over towards Pie.

"Hm?" Pie seemed a little stunned, hesitant from Needle's eyes resting on her. "I'm not physically strong. He'd easily overpower me." She calmly said, giving no visible reaction otherwise.

Everyone seemed to be visibly stumped.

There seemed to be... no real good leads.

Well...

Tv suddenly interrupted the silence, his visor eyes giving a look of squinting and confusion. "W-Wait, wait. Did anyone back up Bottle's claim?" He brought up, gesturing over towards her.

Bottle was surprised. "Well... I..."

"I didn't run into her while jogging so..." Needle rubbed the back of her head.

"Did anyone see her in the halls?" Foldy raised an eyebrow. "Like, at all?"

...

Well...

Perhaps that's our culprit then, hm?

There didn't appear to be much response from everyone else until a loud slam could be heard from one of the podiums. Behind it laid a cold glare, by none other than Ice Cube herself. The kickboxer had been silent the entire time until now, a look of nothing more than cold hatred. "...I did it."

Bottle backed up a little, looking over to Ice Cube in surprise. "What?"

Ice Cube growled. "You fucking heard me. Didn't you?" She snapped, irritated. "You guys can't do anything right. Can you?!"

Eggy raised an eyebrow. "Icy. Calm down." She curled her lip into a bite, clearly unsure on how to respond. "Is this... a confession?"

"Looks like it," Pie muttered.

"Well, doesn't that make things easier! Nobody else has to die! The murderer has revealed themselves!" Profily happily cheered, not realizing the full circumstances.

Rocky covered his mouth, looking at Ice Cube with petrified fear. "...W...Why?"

I didn't even know what to say. Excuse me? When the fuck was Ice Cube involved in all of this? I honestly was confused.

Did she actually do it?

I recalled... something she said before. I looked downwards, at my hands as they gripped the handles of the podium.

"Ugh, boys... I'll be fine on my own, thank you very much."

That... must've been it then.

Snowball seemed the one most against girls and Ice Cube was the one most against boys... So it seemed to well, somewhat make sense.

Trying to piece it in my head was... weird. Actually. Things didn't make sense.

"...But why. Answer us." Bomby hissed.

Ice Cube rolled her eyes. "Why else. Having a brother who's hated you for fucking years does shit to you." She thought. "...W-Why wouldn't I have taken the chance to fucking take *revenge* for... i-it all?"

Foldy winced. "You killed your own fucking brother?"

"...Jeez, I thought I was fucked up. That's a new fucking low, girl." Puffball growled.

"He never liked me... I-I just... H-How the fuck wasn't I supposed to take the chance?! HUH?!"

Pillow covered her mouth, "...I-Icy I... That doesn't mean you could

kill someone though!-"

Ice Cube had her hands balled into fists. "You DON'T UNDERSTAND!" She yelled. Her true emotions had shown through. Something was wrong.

Definitely wrong.

...Wait.

Ice Cube's eyes began to tear up. "That bitch saw it coming. I-I hate him."

Rocky looked away, groaning as he covered his mouth. He seemed like he was about to puke.

Needle raised an eyebrow. "You... seem oddly emotional about it." She commented.

I frowned. "It's because she wasn't the one behind the murder." I bluntly spoke, adjusting my tie as I spoke.

The courtroom went immediately silent as soon as I claimed that. Everyone's eyes were on me... Which, admittedly made me rather uncomfortable.

Ice Cube stared at me in stunned shock and silence, tears still falling from her face. It wasn't long before she moved her arms to her face, covering it as she began to silently cry.

It was clear she wasn't the one behind it.

"...Y-Yellow I... How are you so sure?" Tv stammered, surprised. "I-I mean, I... w-want to trust you and all but-"

I went to go and look through my clothing before pulling out my PDA, "Well... Let's see here." I chuckled a little lowly, squinting at Ice Cube. I was skeptical of her now.

What was her damn deal?

Was she…

Was she trying to get us killed?

Well, the thought annoyed me. That's for sure. "Let me read what the school guidelines say, for all uninformed." I rather calmly spoke, tilting my head at them all.

Eggy was giving me a look of uncertainty but gave a small nod.

"Go on?" Foldy scowled a little, waiting to hear what I had to say.

I took a deep breath, gripping the PDA as I went to turn it so it flipped onto the rules page. I remembered it... Visibly. It glossed over me originally since... lack of sleep and all.

But there it was. The thing I needed to finish this case once and for fucking all.

"Rule 7. The Body Discovery Announcement will only occur if *three* or more students discover the body." I spoke out loud, "This wouldn't count the murderer... If so, then it should've been announced when I came onto the scene. Not when Needle did afterward."

Needle paused. "....Ohhhh, that makes sense." She gave a small nod. "Yeah! It only started after I saw it too!"

"...So, w-what does this mean?" Donut glanced over at Needle as she spoke, before facing me.

I smiled from underneath my mask. "Of course, with Pillow's alibi being defended by Profily..."

"It's only safe to assume that *Bottle* was the one behind it."

Bottle gazed at me, her face twisted into a distressed expression. "I-I..." She sighed, knowing that her time was up. "I-It wasn't supposed to go like this." She glanced over to Ice Cube, who was wiping her tears and looking over at Bottle with a look full of... nothing more than despair.

Bomby had noticed something was wrong with all of this, "What... What the hell happened?"

"I-I'd like to know. Yes." Tv agreed as Pillow gave a disheartened stare at Bottle. "Bottle... W-What did you do?" She weakly asked, hiding herself in her pigtails. The looks on all 3 of them... It was of pure betrayal. Something that I could understand.

Ice Cube trembled. "I-It wasn't her. It was me. I told you this already-"

"Ice Cube... It's okay! Haha..." She rubbed the back of her head, looking at everyone weakly. "You all deserve to live... I shouldn't have... killed him." She seemed to be hesitant in her words, trying to form them. It was a slow process, but she looked at everyone. "B-But didn't have any other choice."

Woody gave a confused look. "...W-Wha do you mean?"

"Seeing how Snowball acted... Doesn't seem particularly too out of character for him to attempt the murder first, is it." Eggy leaned down. "Probably was too fed up with the lack of sleep... Or whatnot."

Profily thought. "So... Bottle killed Snowball... In self-defense?"

Bottle nodded weakly, confirming what appeared to be the truth. Though... There was one last thing that was still in play.

Ice Cube.

Why the hell would she "confess" herself to the murder? With her BROTHER as the victim out of all things? Wouldn't she...

"Heyy... Why the fuckin' hell did you say you were behind it all anyways shortass?" Puffball glared, puffing up her jacket as she looked at Ice Cube. She seemed to have the same thoughts as me and admittedly I was rather intrigued to hear what she had to say.

Ice Cube glared at us all before looking away once again, giving no response besides a few sniffles and tears down her cheeks.

Bottle had looked over to the poor girl, "...S-She helped. She helped him." She quickly said. "S-Sorry for... what happened."

"Shut the actual hell up." Ice Cube looked over to her, a lifeless gaze in her eyes. "It was MY fault you killed him."

"Bottle, what does that mean?-" Pillow looked over to Ice Cube, then back at her friend.

She curled her lips into a frown, covering her face as she seemed rather upset at the circumstances of it all. "S-She didn't go through with the plan and I killed him instead... I wanted to keep him alive but it was too hard to... I-I didn't want to kill anyone, I swear!" She exclaimed, a weak chuckle coming out of her lips but it slowly

drained off into silence. I could just tell from her face she couldn't laugh it off anymore.

There was clear regret on her face.

Unfortunately... It wasn't enough for me to risk myself as well as everyone else's lives in the room for her single one.

Pie was silent, sighing and looking over to Announcer. "I think we know who's the culprit now..." She muttered at him.

The Announcer had perked up at the sound of Pie, looking around at the rest of them. "Oh, really? Well then..." He went to look over to Flower Speaker Box, who looked back and gave a nod.

"Ah right! Well everyone, take out your PDA's and vote for whoever YOU think is behind it!" She chuckled. "Vote wisely... The majority voted student from all of you will be declared this case's accused blackened."

With the PDA already in my hand from the earlier conclusion, I went to pull it up and notice the voting options between all of the students. After a bit of scrolling and looking through all of the options (taking note of Snowball's name being crossed out already) I had finally decided my vote on Bottle.

A few moments passed as everyone voted before the PDA's booted off and a loud noise could be heard as I turned over to notice a screen that was covering up the entrance. I squinted at the sight, as it displayed a wheel.

A wheel of objects...

It had 15 of them. One assumingly associating with each of us.

"So... Let's see who majority voted then, hm?~" Puffball Speaker Box laughed, her robotic voice coming off VERY sinister. I could hear a scowl from someone in the crowd as the wheel began to spin.

It span for a small bit, before it slowly began to land on a glass bottle... Which, had, of course, meant that Bottle was the most voted student.

She was the blackened.

-- **BOTTLE** HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY . TIME FOR PUNISHMENT ! --

Bottle didn't look at any of us as the beeping noises of success had rung through the trial room. Small droplets of tears began to stream down her cheeks, as suddenly a noise as her podium disappeared to make her fall down a hole. She screamed, surprised as Pillow yelped

at the sight. "B-BOTTLE?!" She looked down the hole, surprised as it suddenly covered itself up. The screen had suddenly flashed to something else.

Bottle was on her knees in the middle, staring in surprise and looking around her surroundings. It was a beautiful hall, with stained glass panels of each of the students surrounding her as well as a marbled floor that was so shiny that it mirrored her body. Right on the top of this grand hall was a glass chandelier that hung right above her. Bottle glanced downwards, before noticing the flute and taking it. She seemed hesitant, but she went to move it to her mouth...

A tune began to play as she hummed into the flute, a title in a rather fancy font reading out as:

THE FLUTE'S FINAL SWEET SHATTERING SERENADE

Bottle gripped the flute, and she began to play a tune as the rest of the class was forced to hear. She was moving around, her eyes closed shut as she was invested in the song she was playing. It was clear she was passionate about this ultimate of hers, the song being one that felt... nostalgic of sorts to me at least. Something I've heard before.

Bottle knew it may be her last song, so she knew she had to make this last... Something that sounded nice to her audience. Something for us. I felt pitiful for her, as I kept observing her... The thought of her being in this position now terrified me. She was going to die soon. I could just sense it. I mean... They did announce she was being 'punished' after all. That punishment? Likely death.

The music kept playing, but the screen suddenly shifted into something else. Something... rather different. It was surveillance footage. Of what appeared to be Pillow's... room. Where the murder had occurred. The audio was clearly muted as the song that Bottle kept playing hummed in the background as we were forced to witness the horrifying events of what was on the screen. I could hear the mechanical waves of laughter of the sadistic robots in the background, as much as I wanted to turn to look at them, my eyes felt glued to the screen.

Pillow and Bottle sat on the bed, talking as the two had smiles on their faces. Pillow went to get up, giving a thumbs-up as she opened the door and left the room. Bottle had sat on the bed, going to go and grab a pillow to hold onto it as she waited. The door was clearly left open, though, it wasn't clear from the perspective we were forced in from the camera. Bottle seemed to get up, going to leave for the bathroom. The door closed shut in the bathroom, as it seemed like a few moments had passed.

The footage was soon sped up, to Snowball and Ice Cube entering into the room. Bottle had soon walked out, to get ambushed by the duo. Snowball had grabbed Bottle so that her back was facing him and Ice Cube was in front. He had a clean knife, probably from the kitchen as the sharp end was faced towards Bottle's chest. He seemed to be shouting and grabbing onto the poor girl as she struggled to get out of his grasp. Ice Cube seemed to have frozen up in place, taking steps back as Bottle suddenly had managed to grab the knife and turn it on him.

She forced it into his chest, managing to get out of the way before she hurt herself in the process. Bottle had twisted the knife right into it, making sure it stabbed through him. The expression on her face wasn't clear as it was hidden by her hair and faced away from the camera. Though, Snowball's face of twisted terror was plastered on his face as he stared at

Bottle and Ice Cube before collapsing. The blood from the wound seeping. Ice Cube didn't seem to have any visible reactions, but she was covering her face for a moment before turning away and running. Bottle had looked over to Ice Cube as she left, her hands shaking as she looked back at Snowball slowly. The recording of the murder scene would speed up once again, as it showed Bottle attempting to drag out Snowball's body.

The screen had suddenly flipped to the hallways, where Bottle was dragging out Snowball's body to the front of the door. Her hands were shaky, staring and looking around before quickly backing away from the body and going to run out of the scene. Once again, another fast forward as it showed Bottle and Pillow approaching the body together as Pillow took steps back immediately at the sight of the body. It was soon after I would see myself before it cut.

The screen had shown what had happened. We all... now have seen what Ice Cube and Snowball attempted to do at Bottle. I couldn't quite tell what had happened, though, I'd have to remember it once I actually had some sleep. I tried to brush off the need for rest as I watched Bottle. My heart was beating, as I could suddenly hear... glass cracking.

My heart stopped, my body tensing up, as I noticed the chandelier above beginning to crack and detach from the thing hanging itself up. Bottle had noticed this, her song slowly stopping as she looked up and stared as things seemed to have suddenly stopped. It felt like brief seconds as Bottle screamed and ran to the side to avoid getting hit by the glass shards as the glass shattered all over the floor. Bottle was, of course, hit by some of it. Though her body seemed to have embraced the impact well enough.

Well...

That was until I began to hear choking.

Bottle held onto her throat, choking. She seemed to have accidentally caught some glass in her mouth as she had screamed. Tears streamed down her cheeks as blood dripped from her mouth. She was coughing out her own blood, twisting and turning as she tried to get the glass shard stuck out. The sounds of her slowly dying and gagging were horrifying, as we could all hear it very loud and clear.

Bottle stared, falling to her knees as she seemed like her body was

about to give up.

She winced, her eyes squeezed shut as she was holding herself and tried to hack it out. She croaked, the remains of her voice weak as suddenly a loud noise was heard.

A glass explosion.

Right in her throat.

Bottle had fallen over, laying on some glass shards as it stabbed into her body. Though, not like she could've reacted nor have cared for it. Her mouth laid open, her eyes were wide open as it showed no expression of life. A pool of blood seeped out of her mouth, flowing from her mouth onto the floor as from the lighting of the room made the blood sparkle with the glass shards that had exploded into her mouth. It stained the marble floor as well as the remains of her body. The formerly optimistic flute player was twisted into nothing but a bloody mess after it all. The image of the lifeless body being present for everyone to see.

The screen suddenly shut off, and we were all left to contemplate what had happened.

I bit my lip, stunned at the sight. The mere sight was now burned in my head. That'd be something that would certainly disturb me for the coming nights. I looked away, gripping the podium as I wasn't exactly looking forward to what may happen in the future. I went to take a good look at everyone's faces. They were all tired. Both from the lack of sleep as well as the games. Though, this bloody ride had just started.

I furrowed my eyebrows, as I could hear the robots chuckling before Puffball Speaker Box spoke up. "Class trial is now OFFICIALLY OVER! ~ You are all now free to leave." She happily hummed, before the doors had magically opened up to let us go.

I watched as Ice Cube ran from her podium and ran out immediately.

Knowing what had happened..? I couldn't exactly blame her.

I was rather hesitant, but I went ahead to leave myself with some of the other students. I finally was allowed to head back to my living quarters in order to get some sleep.

Yeah...

Some rest would be awful nice.

Well.

It's been a few months since the very first killing game's events. It was still burned into the brains and memories of the survivors of the first killing game. Though, the four had managed to stay in contact even after they had left and had re-entered back into society where they could meet up with their friends before the incident had occurred. The four had chosen to play along with the story that Six had set up for them, not wanting any suspicion of what had truly happened to rise concerns. It was a regular lunchtime afternoon at Freedsmart Prep, where Ruby and Taco were sitting together with 2 of the other girls in their quite small friend group. Ever since Taco had apologized for the deep misunderstanding that she had between

her and Book, she was quickly allowed to be friends with the other two as Ruby seemed to have a particular attachment to Taco since they had gotten supposedly been "suspended" from Exit Academy. Book had wondered about it, but Ruby had insisted that was all she really needed to know.

"Hey, have you guys seen Ice Cube lately? She hasn't come to school in a while..." Taco was leaning on her arms forward, as Bubble shook her head. "O-Oh? No... I hope she's okai-"

Book raised an eyebrow. "You guys haven't heard? I guess she only trusted me but... She decided to attend Exit Academy with her older brother since the two were eligible." She spoke, a little surprised they seemed confused. Ruby paused. "Wooooah wait... S-She what?" Knowing what she knew about Exit Academy... As well as Taco...

Oh dear fucking god. She really did wish she knew about this earlier.

"Yeah, she left there a few days ago..." She muttered a little. "Is something wrong?" She noticed Ruby's concerned look, as well as Taco's disbelief. "I know you guys got-- Well uh, I think expelled from there but... Was what happened really that bad?"

Taco laughed a little awkwardly. "Y-Yeah, uh... We're fine! I think we need some time to talk..." She gave a small look at Ruby, realizing the urgency of how Ice Cube was actually in danger. Ruby nodded, going to stand. "Yeah... I'm not hungry anymore, I'll see you guys after school!" She waved at them. Bubble smiled. "O-Oh, okai! See you both loter!" Book nodded, a little suspicious but decided to brush it off as she had other things to focus on... Such as her studies.

Taco groaned as the two had gone into an isolated area, making sure nobody else was nearby or could hear them before they began to speak about the news that were just brought to them. "Holyshitholyshitholyshittt- Icy's so fucked in there!" She winced at the mere thought. "God... Who knows who's dead and who's in that game by now-" Ruby frowned. "...I-I thought Monor- I mean... Six would've stopped doing that!"

"I mean, he sure as hell seemed convincing! Look, we need to call and get the other two and we gotta figure out what's going on because

their lives are at stake and we can't just... stand there and do nothing knowing this! Who the hell knows if any of THEIR friends went missing!"

Ruby hesitated a little but nodded quickly. "Well yeah, I agree... Let me go and call them." She fidgeted through her pockets to take out her handy phone and clicked to call Dora. The ringtone took a small bit, but soon Dora had managed to pick up and put the phone to her ear.

"Hey! What's up Ruby?" Dora hummed happily, unaware of what was going on.

Ruby frowned. "Well uh... We have some bad news. Some... Really, REALLY bad news."

"...Yeah? What's going on, are you okay?"

"Me and uh... Taco here, think there's like this whole other killing game going on. Some of our friends are missing."

"Oh, I... I did sorta notice some of uh-" There was a bit of hesitance on her end of the call, but she began to speak once again. "-My brother's classmates gone? That's probably not good then... Is it?"

"Ah, crud... Yeah, okay, we gotta meet up. Our regular spot, okay?"

Dora gave a nod, "I'll make sure to see you after school then." She spoke before the call had ended between the two of them. Ruby had contacted 8-Ball shortly after.

"Another game?.. I've noticed a few of the more stronger students from my school missing, I'll see you soon," 8-Ball spoke through the phone, ending the call. Ruby looked over to Taco. "Alright, that's all of them!"

"Good, well... Let's get this school day over so we can get to the bottom of this."

"Right."

If their suspicions really were right...

Whatever happened to the school as well as Six himself must've not been good.

There's no other explanation for the disappearance of some of their former classmates to Exit Academy.

There was another killing game ongoing.

And they needed to stop it.

CHAPTER 1 | END.
14 OUT OF 16 REMAIN.

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laughing rn this is probably by far the longest exitronpa chapter ive written so far... hope you enjoyed it! i certainly did~

oh right! one final thing, i'll be implementing a new system where i ask you folks on who you want to see the protag (yellow face) interact with next chapter ^^ so feel free to comment on this little section for ur suggestions :D (mostly since i wanna make sure im balancing screentime and showing the ones you guys... want to see. haha!)

[2] Gossip.

I felt my body jolt awake after what seemed like hours of sleep. I rubbed my eyes, groaning as I went to check the clock to realize I only had merely 4 hours of sleep as it rang about 10 AM. I had no idea how long... the trial took, but that's beside the point. It's over now. I did feel a lot more refreshed after plenty of sleep, yawning as I went to get out of bed to go and get a glass of water as I felt dehydrated. As I gulped down my water, I went to make sure I looked presentable before heading out to get some food.

I was awful hungry, knowing everyone else they may feel the same as myself. I walked into a fairly occupied and full cafeteria, with most... if not all (I didn't count), of my fellow classmates hanging inside of there. I made no looks as I headed right for the kitchen, asking Donut for a cup of coffee as well as a toast as he gave a nod and we exchanged a small bit of conversation before I took my breakfast items and went to head and sit down. I noticed conversation being sparked up by some of the other students, going to slowly scoot myself over down the table to tap into what they were exactly saying. I couldn't help myself, morbid curiosity.

"Jeez, this morning... Kinda weird, huh?"

"Well, duh. That fuckin' bitch was tryna get us all killed!"

"Kinda an idiot, honestly..."

I immediately realized it was about the trial, deciding to go and eat my toast as I silently kept listening. I didn't exactly have the energy to protest or interrupt the group. I glanced around, noticing eyes peering over towards the trio. It was obvious they were being sorta loud with their 'gossip.'

"Well... Uh, it was her brother so I guess I can't blame them too much." Bomby murmured, going to take off his cap and lower it

down to his chest. "Losing close ones does mess you up."

Puffball scowled, making a gesture as if she was shooing him away. "Well, maybe she SHOULDN'T have cared! That sexist bitch got what was coming!" She hissed.

"..." Bomby gave a hesitant glare at Puffball, "...Puffball. They were *siblings*."

"Well, she does sorta have a point..." Foldy leaned against the table. "Though, way too far girl."

"Uh, sorry you got a problem with MY opinions." She spoke, in a menacingly and entitled tone. She moved her hand through her hair. "That bitch was an asshole to EVERYONE and that includes his own fuckin' sister. Don't you see how fucking STUPID it is for someone to just, care for someone so goddamn shitty?!" She shouted, slamming her hands on her table which made everyone jump. There was silence in the cafeteria, as I glanced around at everyone else who had certainly noticed the commotion ongoing.

Everyone... including Ice Cube.

Ice Cube had a cup of milk in her hand, shaking as she was behind and had just made her way to pass by them. She didn't say a word, as she dropped her glass and quickly left. I wasn't able to make out her reaction, but seeing how sudden the whole ordeal was... I could only imagine she might've spilled tears from hearing what Puffball had just said about her *deceased* brother.

Frankly, I felt bad. Puffball didn't seem to care though, rolling her

eyes and going back to eating her breakfast. It was clear Bomby was uncomfortable with the situation with Foldy just awkwardly backing away from the situation.

"...Jesus Christ," I muttered under my breath as I finished up my toast. I chose to leave, uncomfortable with the energy left behind from the conversation. I grabbed my cup of coffee, leaving the place immediately as I decided to simply enjoy my coffee in a more peaceful spot. Well, with seeing how everyone was mostly in the cafeteria, I would assume the hallways would be rather empty of life. I headed for the dormitories, humming a light tune as I approached the entrance of the hallways.

I went to take a sip of my coffee, pausing before feeling something bump into me as a bit of my coffee had spilled on the floor. I went to quickly turn around, probably taking a few steps back to distance myself. "..?"

Pillow stood there, equally as surprised as I was. She gave a light yawn, before waving. "Mm... Hi Yellow." She waved lightly. She seemed beyond tired as if she barely got any sleep to add to it all. "Erm, you alright?" I raised an eyebrow, going to step to the side as she began to approach towards me. She gave a slight nod. "...Y-Yeah! I'm just... tired." She rather calmly said, playing with her pigtails. I observed her stance, noticing how loose everything looked.

"You should probably get some rest."

"...Heading to my room right now to do that." She gave me a small thumbs-up to me. "See you later?.."

"Right." I simply tilted my head, my reading everything for her as I observed as she left off. I took a minute to gaze off longingly, before sighing. I took another sip of coffee, letting the caffeine take work of my brain as I knew there was a lot ahead of me in my path. There was no use gloating about such things though, going to walk around the first floor.

It was probably better that I didn't really interact with anyone at this time. Everyone seemed to be tense still, including myself of course.

I decided to head right for my room after my little venture around the floor. I noticed the stairs opened... Which definitely wasn't the case previously. Perhaps some of the others have already seen it? It wasn't a priority of mine right now though. I was quite comfortable with the current environment and already having to explore new territory would just be merely a pain for me.

The thought of Ice Cube's reaction to the whole thing earlier was bothering me a lot. I just... was concerned for her. She seemed to have been at her breaking point.

Well, obviously from what she was trying to fucking pull at the trial. I was just... trying to give the benefit of the doubt and hope she'd recover from all of it sooner or later. My respect for... *some* had lowered after that though.

Well. No big deal.

I shouldn't be thinking about stuff like that. Moving on is the best decision for, well, everyone really. We lost 2 people. Trying to prevent losing more people unless situations are dire would be ideal.

[2] Familiar Comfort.

I flinched as I got up from my bed, looking around in surprise.

What..?

I rubbed my head, a little in annoyance. I went to take out my PDA, before realizing it was sometime in the late afternoon. I must've taken a nap when I went to sit on my bed... or whatever along those lines. I decided to glance around my room, squinting at all of the decorations on my wall.

It's been a small bit since I first arrived here and I realized I never actually examined my room properly. Something about the decorations felt wrong... As if they *knew*. The thought left shivers down my spine as I went to quickly get out of bed. I tossed the bedsheets to the side, as I went to approach one of the posters on my wall and squinted at it. I wasn't... sure. Everything about my room just rubbed me the wrong way, as I gripped my arms and looked away. "Don't let it get to you." I had to remind myself, going to the bathroom and slip my mask off slightly so I could splash a bit of water on my face.

I knew I was still tired from merely just waking up, plus the whole... situation yesterday and everything else. The paranoia was certainly getting to me, which, I couldn't let happen. I grumbled at myself, muttering words of encouragement to convince myself that I'll make it through.

I went to walk outside of my room, letting my hand slip across the door as it shut behind me. I intended to head for the cafeteria to see if they were serving any food of sorts, my mind wandering as it was full of different thoughts. I had a lot of questions... and concerns. I suppose not many would be answered, at least anytime soon. I was trying to ignore the thoughts but unfortunately, they kept flowing back to me. I gripped my hands into fists, looking away before

accidentally bumping into someone. I stumbled back a little, looking over in surprise. "..?"

Pie was standing, with a cup in her hand. I assumed it was filled with water or something, as a bit of it seemed to have spilled on her. She gave a small shrug at me. "Whatever, I have more of this outfit in my room." She muttered, glancing off to the side. I felt awkward, "...R-Right, apologies. I'm just... gonna go and try to get some food." I had immediately excused myself, heading past her. She gave a small nod in response. "Have fun." She said, before going to walk off in her own direction. I'd assume to her room but... I'll never find out since I'm no creep.

I headed down the hallways for the cafeteria, minding my own business as the halls specifically seemed rather empty. Hm...

Perhaps there's a reason why.

I took no note of it, walking until I noticed Tv walking down the hall and nearly passing by me. He stopped in his tracks, looking over at me and giving a comforting smile. "Oh, h-hey Yellow! Glad to see you alright..." He turned over to stand beside me. I raised an eyebrow. "Well, yes... I'm alright. Nothing's happened to me." I huffed a little, "I was about to go and get some food. You want to come?" I decided to offer, not minding the company of someone else.

I knew I shouldn't get too attached, though. Who knows what may happen.

"H-Hm? Oh, sure!- I... was thinking about heading to the new 2nd floor that was opened."

"2nd floor?" I recalled a blocked-off stairway... Did they open it up since?

He gave a nod. "Yep! P-People have been mostly exploring that so..."

"...I see."

The two of us had a bit more conversation about this 2nd floor that I definitely knew to try to check out later today. Knowing that our surroundings expanded the more we live through this game... Well,

I'd assume so at least... I knew I had to make sure to not do anything stupid to get myself killed. The walk didn't take too long to the cafeteria, as we made it inside. The place seemed deserted, which Tv had made a small comment on.

"...I guess m-most people have been exploring."

"Well, that or it's past the time people would eat," I muttered in reply.

He looked over at me, taking a moment to acknowledge it. "P-Perhaps... Anyhow, there are likely leftovers we can take in the kitchen." Tv went ahead to lead the way towards the kitchen, which I had followed in close pursuit. I was definitely rather hungry, hearing my stomach rumble lightly from the lack of food.

I grinned a little underneath my mask at the sight of the leftovers. "Ah, you were right in that department." He looked over at me, nodding. "M-Mhm!-" He gave a cheerful smile before going to go and microwave the food for us. "Y-You can go sit outside, I'll come out with it."

"Hm, alright."

Following what he had recommended for me to do, I went ahead to sit down and wait patiently for the other to come out with our food. I leaned on the table, tapping my foot on the floor as my fingers tapped in rhythm on the table. I hummed a small familiar tune to myself, focusing my thoughts on the current situation. I thought we could hold back on murdering but I suppose with the conditions of the so-called 'motives,' the job had become significantly more difficult.

Well, clearly so with the first murder already having occurred.

I still felt a twinge of nervousness, but I had to quickly brush it off as I perked at the noise of footsteps approaching from behind. I turned around, still sitting but noticing someone standing at the entrance.

Donut was messing with the buttons on his sweater, "...Oh, Uhm... D-Didn't really expect for there to be other people here!" He exclaimed, walking towards me. "So Uhm... W-What are you doing here?"

"I was waiting for Tv to finish heating up some leftovers you made, I assume."

"A-Ah! Right. Mind if I eat with you guys?"

"I don't really care, you could ask Tv if you want a definite answer though."

Donut gave a small nod, going to take a seat beside me. I went to scoot a little away to give him (and myself...) some space.

It took a bit of time, but Tv eventually headed out with a tray of food in his hands. He noticed Donut, giving a small smile. "Oh, hi!" He looked over towards me in seeming expectation for me to say something. I gave a look towards Donut, raising an eyebrow. "...Oh, Donut just wanted to eat with us."

"Y-Yeah."

"Oh! Hm... Sure, he can. I-I think we perhaps have enough food..."

"I could just make more if we need it." Donut laughed a little, rubbing the back of his head. "Well, w-we should dig in now."

"Right, right..." I mumbled. The three of us began to indulge in the food, enjoying it. I was finishing mine up quickly for sure. I wasn't sure when was the last time I ate... but it's been long enough for me to savor the taste of food. The three of us ate, with a small conversation happening within us. I wasn't exactly paying attention to what the two were saying though... Mostly distracted with other things. Such as that 2nd floor.

I went to suddenly stand up, looking at them both. "I'm full, thanks for making the food." I calmly said, excusing myself. As I went to go and leave to find where those damned stairs were... I don't recall, but with a bit of exploration, I figured I'd find it. Well, I was going to at least. During my time walking around and trying to find where the stairs were, I noticed Woody wandering around aimlessly as well.

What the hell was he doing now..? He's definitely not worth my time.

I decided to retreat back to my room, not wanting to exactly deal

with this. I could check it out later with someone else anyways. I was rather tired now that I walked off the meal I had just eaten, so... Yeah, I'm definitely avoiding him.

I went to back away, turning and going to walk where the familiar hallways of the dormitories were. I glanced over at all of the various doors, with each of the nameplates on them. It was soon that I'd find my own and be comforted by the somewhat familiarity of it. If only I could be back where I actually had come from.

The familiar comfort of my home, wherever it may be now.

[2] The Feeling of Loneliness.

I went to enter my room, rubbing the back of my head a little as I went to stretch inside of my room. I still had a bit left of the day, but frankly heading out right now may not be the best choice. I'd have to see them all later anyways for dinner which I had intended on going there for a nice sleep afterward.

Now's the time I wanted to think about what's happened so far. Two people dead. It was obvious those fucking robots weren't joking about death, but I think everyone's aware of it at this point. The measures people would take to avenge their loved ones... It certainly made me think.

Ice Cube has a lot of shit going on with her, I can't doubt the idea she might pull something sooner or later... It's not my business as of right now, I have other more important matters. I knew I had to be cautious, as lowering my guard might as well leave me dead.

Don't get me wrong, though, I'm definitely less suspicious of some compared to others.

I know I may raise suspicion for myself for the others, but all I can do is care about my own perception.

After all, wouldn't it be rather hypocritical to murder someone you suspect of doing the very same thing? I suppose I wouldn't exactly know... In the name of justice, may change the hypocrisy of the situation.

Besides the point.

The feeling of silence filling the room gave me a sort of... satisfying feeling, but also a sense of emptiness at the same time.

...

...

...

Though, all I see it doing is leaving me with my thoughts. The abstract expression of things filled my otherwise sort of lonely head.

My thoughts tend to wander, quite often, during the day.

It's a part of me that I have done nothing but embrace.

As I know that the freedom of thought is one I should cherish. Keeping my gut feelings of others to myself, making sure I *survive* out of this game, securing I have self-control...

Just a few of the things I've observed myself having to do in this circumstance. I value my life more. After all, I have a damn good reason to live. Granted, not exactly like I had shared it with anyone here...

I don't want to.

Not at all, no. That'd be a mistake. Something I can't do again. Not again.

As I think this, I realize the feeling of loneliness hinges on me. As if I haven't gotten over it. I held my arms, shivering at the thought of it. I knew I would have to get along with these people sooner than fucking later if I wanted any chance at survival. Even so, I knew to keep my distance.

Nobody is trustworthy.

I figured that out years ago. No need to try to insist on it further for me. I went to go and stand up, trying to brush off this feeling of... guilt? I don't exactly know how to describe it. I grimaced, going to walk to the door and open it to leave the comfort of my own dorm behind. If I could even consider the placeholder of my home to be one.

Walking down the dormitory hallway, I avoided looking around as I knew exactly where I wanted to head. There was no need to distract me from where I wanted to visit. The walk for myself was a quiet path, with the noises of the things around me being muted and blocked off with my thoughts trailing. It wouldn't exactly be long until I made it to my destination. I looked up, enticed to see the dining room where the elongated table sat.

There were already a few of my fellow classmates there, talking and having each other in their company. Some who've already met before the game, others making bonds as they have gotten here, which I suppose I cannot judge for. I headed for the kitchen to get something to eat, before soon emerging and heading to sit down at the table.

I wasn't exactly paying attention to where I sat, crossing my legs and doing my typical routine with my face covering. Soon after, I would begin to enjoy my... meal, I can't quite place on what it was. Nothing memorable, that's for sure. What was more important was that I heard someone beside me speak up.

"Hey, are you okay?"

I looked up, lowering my mask a little to cover a part of my mouth. I was caught a little off guard, chuckling a little awkwardly at the sudden conversation before giving a small nod.

"Mmm, yep! Would erm, say so."

"I mean, kinda looks like you got something on your mind..." She commented, "You don't have to say it but I mean, we BOTH know things have been hard."

"I'm rather aware, yes..." I muttered. "Death is unfortunate, but I have other things on my mind." I truthfully stated.

"Really?"

"Well, yes, there's no use dwelling on the past when you know there's only more to come of this."

"Right. They really weren't lying, were they?" She sighed, going to eat a bit more of her food.

I gazed over as she did so, before looking away and slowly shaking my head. "No, not at all."

"So, what? Are you trying to prepare to fight back against whoever tries to kill you? You know what happened to her."

"Wouldn't have to happen if it was prevented in the first place. It makes things rather complicated with these... 'motives' in play though." I grumbled. "You never know what might push someone."

I could see Needle frown at the thought from the corner of my eye. "Makes sense. At least we have a bit of experience now though."

"Gives us more time to try to delay our deaths, that's for sure..."

"Let's not act like that. You know, I noticed you're always to yourself."

"Hm?" I went to look over, as I finished my food. "And?"

She shrugged. "Don't you have friends in this place?"

"Well, yes... I just don't hang out with them often enough for you to see."

"Just saying, but shouldn't you keep an eye on your friends and be

with them more often?" She began to propose. "You never know when they might leave your side or even worse."

I hesitated a little, going to move my mask down as I gulped a little. This was getting into... mildly uncomfortable territory. I do understand her concerns, though. "...I'm aware. I suppose I could spend some more time with them, like I am with you. If you even care to consider me one."

"I mean, just because we don't talk much doesn't mean we aren't on good terms."

"...That's true." I took a few moments to think before standing. "...Thanks, I suppose. The feeling of loneliness was rather bothering me."

Needle gave a thumbs-up. "We gotta keep a lookout for each other's backs." She smiled a little.

I returned her statement with a small nod of agreement, murmuring something to myself before going to leave back to my room. It was getting late enough for me to catch some sleep.

Moving my pockets in my hands, I looked forward as I felt my boots make noises against the hallway floors. It wasn't annoying by any means, arguably maybe even calming for me. There was no other real noise besides these footsteps and the occasional murmurs from the others in other parts of the hallways. I was left undisturbed, though, perhaps with the mild feeling of being watched... Though, if the footage from the trial told me anything...

We were always being watched.

Of course, granted, it's not like I could do anything about it. I'd just have to play along... They knew plenty more than I wish they did. At least I could attempt to hide as much about myself as ai could until comfortable.

My secrets are something I value. Something that should continue staying as secrets.

Just a hunch, though.

I hummed as I walked inside my room, doing my typical routine before joining myself in bed. The day felt as if it had just dragged on. I mean, it felt like that.

So with that, my senses blurred as my vision joined a black void. Though, in simple terms, that's just called falling asleep.

Good night.

Tomorrow may be a day of disaster.

Or the next.

Or the next after...

[2] Close Friends, Afar Enemies.

I jolted up from bed, looking around rather frantically as if it felt as if I had woken up from a nightmare. I moved my hand to my face, feeling it as the touch of my paper mask reciprocated.

"..."

I let out a sigh of relief, going to get up and move a hand down my shirt. It was a weak attempt, but I tried to smooth the wrinkles built up from the night's rest. Of course, my hand is nothing like an iron, not proving to be very effective.

Disappointed, I decided to head out of my room immediately. Today, I wanted to visit somewhere I didn't go to often. I kept a straight posture, hands behind my back, heading down the hallways for where my intended destination would be. Nothing was exactly on my mind right now...

For the most part.

A nice change, that I will accept until it may return to distract me. A peaceful morning walk towards the garden was what I had wanted to do.

I hadn't checked the time, so I wasn't sure on how many people would be up at this time. I peered inside once I had arrived, curious to see who would be inside. I wouldn't be surprised at all

To my surprise, 3 people were tending to the plants inside.

Bomby kneeled down to the ground, holding a spade in his hand as he was watching Rocky pat the dirt, moving a small pile of it. There was a hole, with what was clearly a freshly planted sprout inside as

Rocky was filling the ground up to make sure it stayed in place. Ice Cube was off to the side, watching the two plant things.

I chuckled a little at the sight, making my presence known. "What are you planting?" I asked, walking over to where Bomby was. He went to stand, shrugging. "We just found a few pots with plants off to the side and Rocky here wanted to place them with..."

"Their f-family!" He chirped in, smiling and looking down as the plant was now secure in the ground. I smiled at Rocky's input. "I see, well, you plan to put all of them in?"

"Yeah, this is our third one done," Bomby murmured, going to put down the spade and walk to a nearby table to retrieve a plant. He gripped it tightly, careful to kneel to place it down so Rocky could take it.

"Hm, sounds good then. Do you need help by any chance?"

"T-The more the merrier..?" He used his arm to wipe his face, beaming a smile over in my direction as I went to kneel. "Let's see what I could do then..." I chuckled.

I went to take the potted plant out of Rocky's hands, going to slowly slide the innards out of its containment and transfer it into the small hole made by the duo earlier. Rocky proceeded to grab a spade, shoveling dirt, and patting the plant in place with the small dirt pile nearby. Once done, he placed down the spade and looked up at me.

I smiled through my mask, despite knowing he'd be unable to read my expression. "Hm, well done." I praised.

Rocky gave a big smile as he heard my compliment, looking over at Bomby. The construction worker had given me a thumbs up before going to leave to grab another pot. The three of us continued to plant the various sprouts until we got a full box of them.

I was satisfied, dusting my hands as I stood. "Well, this certainly seems complete." I commented, looking at the others. Bomby rubbed the back of his head. "Yeah, thanks for helping."

"...Right," I murmured, looking around at the rest of the garden. The

place was full of nature, some much more lively than others. The sight amused me before I had laid my eyes on Ice Cube who was awkwardly watching. I raised an eyebrow, going to do a slight wave.

Ice Cube had noticed me do so in the corner of her eye, quickly looking away and growling. She seemed to be very irritated, which made me frown. But... It wasn't worth trying to encourage anything from her.

"Is she good?" I suddenly heard, looking at Bomby and shrugging. "...She's still upset. How long has she been here?"

"F-For awhile..." Rocky murmured, sitting down and playing with his hands. "M-Maybe she wants to... garden with us?-"

"...Well."

"H-Hey!-" Rocky called out.

Ice Cube turned over, raising an eyebrow and frowning. "What do you want..." She looked at us with a blank look, which... unsettled me. "U-Uhm... Do you... want to plant?" He nervously asked, staring back at her.

She squinted, crossing her arms and scowling. "...I'll pass." She frowned, going to proceed to leave the garden. What was left was a mist of confusion among the three of us. Rocky frowned. "...Oh, aw..." He looked away.

Bomby went to lean down and pat his back. "It's okay little bud... At least you got us." He reassured. I chuckled a little at his attempt. "Yeah, sure." I glanced off to the side, drifting off... But, I had to concentrate on something else.

"Are you guys hungry?" I suddenly decided to ask, noticing the two of them looking over in my direction.

"...uh. Not really." Bomby muttered, going to pat Rocky on the head. He took a step back once he noticed Rocky come over to me. The young child nodded, smiling. "Y-Yes, sir!"

"I'm gonna go and head out to get food," I informed them. "...You

could come if you'd like." I offered, crossing my arms.

"Well, looks like Rocky wants to go with ya. Not me, though, I gotta check on the other plants."

Rocky looked over to Bomby as he spoke. Once he had finished what he said, he quickly looked over to me and nodded to approve of his statement. I gave a nod in return, hesitating a little. "...Alright, let's go then," I murmured, beginning to head out. I could hear the footsteps of the other as he followed me out of the garden. I moved my hands behind my back, walking calmly to the cafeteria. It was nice being able to observe the others... For what it's worth, I believe sometimes good exists.

Not often, but... It's there. Somewhere out there.

My thoughts were interrupted once again by the feeling of Rocky holding my arm. I stopped for a brief second, surprised and embarrassed by the sudden contact. "..Hm?" I looked down at him, noticing him looking forward.

"L-Look!-" He exclaimed at me, looking up at me for a brief second before back forward. I raised an eyebrow, frowning a little. I went ahead to look forward, realizing my thoughts clearly distracted me and made me aloof to the sight of someone right in front of us.

"Uhm... Hey!-"

Pillow went to approach us, messing with her lab coat. "Where are you guys heading to?" She curiously asked, tilting her head.

"Mm..."

"T-The cafeteria! We're hungry..."

"Oh! Mind if I join you guys? Don't really have uhm... anyone else to hang out with right now." She rubbed her eye, letting out a small yawn. "I'm kinda sleepy..."

"S-Sure! She can join us, right Yellow?" Rocky looked up at me, gently squeezing my arm to make sure he got my attention. I looked down at him, before back at Pillow.

I sighed.

"...Yes, she can join us."

Pillow beamed, going to go and walk over to stand beside us. "Great!" I rolled my eyes, a little annoyed but... besides the point. I began to continue my walk with the other two to the cafeteria. I was kinda blocking out the noises, as both Rocky and Pillow were having a conversation I paid no attention to. Before long, we arrived and headed inside. "So... Are we going to heat up some food?"

"Not like you'd know how to make food... Let's just do that." I muttered under my breath, heading inside the kitchen with Pillow. I glanced back to check on Rocky, noticing him sitting comfortably at the mostly empty table. I smiled slightly at the sight, before looking back. "Wait, what was that?" Pillow looked at me with skepticism.

"...What was what."

"That thing you said!"

"Let's just... do that?" I tensed up a little, crossing my arms. I was a little confused about what the hell her point was supposed to be...

"No, before! You muttered something."

I growled a little. "Really. Well, I said nothing. So are we going to heat up the food or what?" I snapped a little, squinting at her from behind the mask.

She put her hands on her hips, rolling her eyes a little. "Well, duh! Just wanted to know what the serial killer said." She stuck her tongue out, before turning away to find the food.

"...Excuse me?"

"What? Don't like being called a serial killer?" She didn't look back at me, opening the fridge. I clenched my hands into fists, going to lean against the wall as I waited for her.

"Obviously..? What the fuck's your problem?"

"Wellll... It just takes a matter of research! That's my ultimate after all." She turned around, winking as she had a container of frozen food in her hands. "Speaking of ultimates... Apparently, yours are just... question marks? That makes no sense!"

"I'm not the only on-"

"Woody at least doesn't act like an edgy wannabe." She shrugged, going to open the microwave. "I mean, just think about it! Protective over that mask, distant from basically everyone, and just really aggressive for no reason!"

"I'm only aggressive because you're assuming my ultimate is messed up." I spat back, watching as she stuffed the container in the microwave.

"It is an educational guess! I mean, what's your ultimate then? Huh?"

"..." I looked away, frowning. "That is none of your business. But it's not anything you'd be able to guess." I spoke, wary. I didn't want anyone to know. It was a well-kept secret and I tended to keep it that way. As long as those stupid robots don't test me...

"Uh-huh, whatever you say." Pillow clearly sounded doubtful with her remarks. Even so, she still kept a smile as she looked up at the microwave. She noticed it beep once it had finished warming up. She went to open it up, sliding out the container of food and holding it. She looked over at me. "Well? What are you waiting for?" She hummed, going to go and leave the kitchen by skipping with the food.

I hesitated, gripping my arms tightly at the sight of her just leaving after... pushing me like that. I felt insulted, really. No matter, though, I had to be rational about these things. We just have... our creative differences, I should say.

I walked over to one of the drawers attached to the countertops, going to open it up and scan the insides. I went to grab a few forks and spoons for eating, before going to leave the kitchen to the cafeteria where Pillow and Rocky sat.

Rocky gave a wave as he noticed me walk over, scooting over as I sat down. "L-Look at what we're eating!" He gestured towards the case of food. Inside contained warmed-up noodles, Pillow going to reach over and quickly swipe one of the forks from me. "Dig in!" She happily spoke, going to stuff her newly obtained cutlery inside the box to twirl the long pasta around it.

I rolled my eyes, going to slowly pass Rocky a fork before going to have my own fork to eat myself. I made sure to lift my mask slightly, to make sure the food actually got into my mouth.

The three of us mostly ate in silence, just indulging in the food that was in front of us. I didn't pay too much attention to the two, still stifled by the conversation in the kitchen. The audacity to even say that really annoyed me. I felt... disrespected.

But I wasn't going to let emotions get the best of me. At least, that's what I'm intending to do...

I have to learn to be tough, or I might as well be fed to the lions.

Still, it bothered me. I lost my appetite from the mere thought, going to place down the fork on the table. I looked off to the side. Rocky seemed to have noticed, nudging me. I looked over, "Hm?"

"...A-Are... you okay?" I tensed up, a little hesitant. I gave a small, reluctant smile. "Yes, yes. I'm alright. Just not as hungry as I thought I was." I tried to calm his nerves. Rocky gave a nod, "...Okay." I went to lower my mask to cover the entirety of my face once he responded, going to stand. Pillow looked up. "Oh, see ya!" She spoke with her mouth semi-full of food, giving a smile as she was trying to swallow what she was eating. I looked away, going to leave the cafeteria. As I left, I could hear Pillow talking to Rocky and the both of them giggling afterward. I was skeptical, but I brushed it off.

I was alone once again, going to pull out my PDA to check the time. I muttered something under my breath as it was becoming the evening at this point. As I went to look up, Foldy suddenly bumped into me. Which caught both of us off guard. "Oh shit-"

"..." I squinted, going to slowly back up to give her space. Foldy went

to adjust her cap, huffing a little in irritation. "Damnit. Uh..." She looked over at me. "Oh, it's just you." She sneered, giving me a small glare. I was... a little confused. What the hell was her problem?

"Right. Look, if it's still because of that first impression I already told you my name." I frowned. "You don't need to hold a grudge."

"Jeez, no need to assume!" She snapped, crossing her arms and looking to the side. Yeah... I'm almost certain she still wasn't over it. "I have my reasons... Anyhow, where are you heading?"

"...Ugh, I was just heading to the cafeteria."

"Ah, explains it. I was just heading out of there."

"Do they have food there or...?"

"Mhm, enough to satisfy you for the day... Well, I'd at least say so."

"Right. Well, thanks or... whatever." She muttered. "Just because you told me that doesn't mean I like you or anything." She spat, beginning to walk past me.

"...What? I wasn't thinking that." I turned over to her, wary. "Look, can we just call it even already? We kinda need to get along if we want to survive here."

"I'll be fine!"

"...Yeah, sure." I rolled my eyes as she ran off, going to continue off in the other direction. There was no use trying to convince her of anything, I guess. I yawned a little, burnt out from the day. It was a fairly productive one, I'd believe. I dreaded whatever would come next, generally, I'd like to keep good bonds with these people but... Some are simply just lost causes, let's be honest.

I walked into the dormitory hallway, looking around and going to head for my room. Before being able to do so, I noticed Pie from the corner of my eye heading for her own. She must've noticed me looking over, as she looked back and gave a small wave. I couldn't help but wave back, just as a friendly gesture.

Pie gave a slight smile, glancing off to the side as she was about to open her door. I noticed her murmur something under her breath, my curiosity at that moment taking the best of me. "What was that?" I suddenly spoke.

"Hm?" Pie let go of the door handle, looking at me.

"You uh, said something."

"I was thinking about taking a nap, that's all," Pie murmured.

"Isn't it late though?"

"Not really. I do a lot of morning stuff."

"Then... what's considered sleep to you?"

"Dunno, I don't sleep for that long." She rubbed her eye. "I've been trying to get back on my schedule because of what happened though...." She scowled a little, seeming annoyed by the previous motive.

"I see. Well, take it easy then." I glanced over at my door, moving my hand to the handle behind me as I twisted the door open.

Pie nodded, taking off her headband to move her hair out of her face before putting it back on. "You too."

I went to fall back into my room once hearing her, going to close the door once I entered inside. I yawned, enjoying the feeling of good silence. Though, now I think about it, being able to catch up on sleep now would be damn nice... I decided to turn in early for the night.

No shame in that, is there?

I stretched, going to head into the bathroom. I was wary, lifting up my mask to try to splash water on my face. Of course, my mask got wet... I had no replacements for it here, it seems. Which is truly a shame, but, I could always try to craft up a new one if it really got to that point. It seemed durable enough for now. Well, I hope.

Having Pillow test me on my identity really gets on my nerves... But,

nothing that I'd fucking resort to *murder* for.

Besides the point, once I finished washing my face, I had placed back on my mask. I headed out of my bathroom and settled into bed for a good night's sleep. Didn't take me too long to get knocked out either.

Possibly tomorrow may lead to something more interesting, just a... bad feeling though. It was nice to at least talk to my peers as if we weren't stuck here. I miss being in this sort of environment, really.

School just wasn't for me though.

[2] Bad Recollection.

I immediately sprung awake from the noise of loud dinging, flinching and looking around as I was trying to process what was going on. As I collected myself, I began to hear what I was woken up for... Going to grab the PDA from the countertop as it vibrated, I squinted as I looked down at it. Firey Speaker Box was projected on it, with Puffball Speaker Box and Flower Speaker Box standing beside him.

"All students please meet at the auditorium ASAP. Everyone must attend, or else consequences will be held!"

Firey Speaker Box spoke, laughing after. Flower Speaker Box squinted at him, "Hey! Don't spoil the surprise!" She hissed. Puffball Speaker Box frowned. "He's just doing what he told us to do..." "SHUT UP!" Flower Speaker Box suddenly shoved Puffball Speaker Box, as Firey Speaker Box backed up in surprise. The screen suddenly shut off, as I groaned loudly and placed it beside me. I was still rather groggy... But I got the message.

I quickly went to get out of bed, going to grab the PDA from the bed and stuffing it in my pocket. I sighed, going to go and quickly leave my room and heading for the auditorium. I had no idea what time it was. Though, I doubt I'd have enough time to check how long it's been. I went to walk ahead, trying to pace myself as I was still trying to process things in my head. Though, I could hear something faint as I went to stop and look over. I noticed Pie getting out of her room, yawning. "...Hey." She looked over at me, with a blank face.

"Hello, suppose we'd be going to the same place together?"

"...Mhm." She went to move her hands together above her head, leaning back to stretch. "Let's just get this done."

"Right. Well, say, what do you even do in the mornings anyways?" I began, taking charge as we began to walk for where we were called

to be. I remembered the conversation from last night, wanting to take the time to just... talk, I suppose. I was dreading what'd be coming up for this announcement. I had a few ideas... but I rather not assume and see it for myself.

Pie shrugged, looking up at me. "Yoga. That's what I'm best at after all."

"Ah, right... Perhaps you should show me how to do some sometime."

"Possibly, it's better to do it with a group rather than a one-on-one though."

"I see... Perhaps we could ask after this whole thing blows over?" I sheepishly asked, unsure if anyone else would be up for it... The thought of doing something calming sounded nice.

"Fine by me."

I gave a small nod, not saying much more as we continued the rest of the trip in silence. Which wasn't for more than just a few minutes as the faint conversations of the people who had already made it into the gymnasium began to grow louder and louder as we approached. I opened the door for Pie, letting her come in before walking in myself. I looked around, observing the others as they were in their own groups and whatnot. I decided to keep to myself, hands behind my back as the last people made their way inside.

It would be soon that all 14 of us would have arrived. 2 less than before.

I took a deep breath, as I went to look over and see all four of them standing there. Firey Speaker Box and Puffball Speaker Box seemed to be whispering to each other about something while Flower Speaker Box was off to the side with her arms crossed. In the middle of the three was the Announcer at the podium. He loomed down at us, with a sinister robotic smile of an expression.

Flower Speaker Box went to glance over at us, before turning over to Announcer. "Everyone's here, are we starting now or what?" She

squinted, moving her hands on her hips. Announcer turned over, growling. "Patience." He went to look up, snapping his fingers as a massive projector screen began to slowly lower down from the top of the auditorium where the stage was. It stood behind the four, so they still were visible to our eyes. I raised an eyebrow at the sight, a little confused. Though, I knew that my concerns and questions would soon be answered by these sick fucks...

I glanced around to see how everyone else felt, noticing that they had similar expressions as I believe I had. I noticed Tv standing by me as well, but I didn't care enough to acknowledge it as my worries were growing with the projector screen. What the hell would he need that for..?

"I think we could speed this up, sir!~" Puffball Speaker Box spoke, going to raise her hand and hop up as she grabbed the projector from the bottom and began to pull it down to speed up its lowering. Firey Speaker Box was surprised. "Hey!- What is with you guys and being so disobedient lately!?" He ran over, trying to get Puffball Speaker Box to stop. I heard some small mutters among my classmates from this interaction. Announcer didn't seem to pay particularly too much mind, though, not looking back and simply having a frown on his face.

Puffball Speaker Box had managed to pull it down, though, having a clear smile on her face at the sight of it. "See, not so bad~" She hummed, going to elbow Firey Speaker Box. He scowled, muttering something under his breath in clear annoyance. Huh... Interesting. They may be cruel robots, but they clearly have a bit of sentience there.

"Can you guys hurry up already? You're just wasting our time here." Eggy spoke out, turning to the side as if she was preparing to leave immediately. Announcer didn't respond for a second but suddenly slammed his fist onto the podium. "SILENCE." He snapped, tilting his head. "Of course, we may begin... So, you may all be wondering why we called you here."

"...W-Wah!" Woody responded, looking off to the side nervously.

"Well, duh." Needle grumbled. "Just get to the point!"

Announcer paused for another moment, before letting out an annoyed sigh. "...Right." He turned back to the three speaker boxes, who stood there. "Get the projector running." He ordered them, as the three began to scamper off to who the hell knows where. He went to turn back towards us all, chuckling as he went to tap the microphone to make sure it was working.

"Since you all clearly seem to be getting along quite so well... We've decided to give you a new motive to push you all to take someone's life. After all, the game must progress somehow."

None of the students spoke as they processed what he just said. Oh shit, not fucking again. I wasn't really ready for what was to come... Or for a motive at all.

"Today's incentive may impact some here more than others... But, as a couple of you may have pieced... There was a group before you." He announced, with a smirk on his face. **"People just like you... pushed to harm each other. Perhaps you'd like to see them all, hm?"**

I stared in shock, my eyes widening.

Excuse me?

Oh god, Bomby was fucking right. I took a step back at the realization, taken aback by where this seemed to be leading. I looked at everyone else, with concern. I knew everyone else probably was reacting differently to this... This is definitely news for some of us. I could tell.

"TURN ON THE PROJECTOR!" Announcer suddenly yelled, as the lights began to dim and a glow was emitting onto the screen. I froze up in place, not wanting to bump each other as now we couldn't see anything but the projector that lit up the screen in front of us. I took a deep breath, trying to embrace myself for whatever we'd be seeing.

The projector screen soon began to show an image with 16 people, all together and standing in an auditorium identical to this. There was also a 17th person, shown beside the group but clearly standing in its own picture. I recognized absolutely none of them. Though,

hearing the gasps from other people, it was obvious these were people that were connected to some of us. Perhaps there's... something more to this whole story.

To describe them all would be a doozy, but I observed the group carefully to see if any of them may indicate a relationship between them and someone here in this very room.

There was a girl with brown messy hair with a green crossbody bag and a leaf-shaped clip in her hair.

A rather chubby man with a beige coat and goggles.

A boy with a green bowtie and suspenders.

Someone with a pink shirt, wearing a purple bag, and having her hair tied up in a ponytail. Beside her was a boy with a grey jacket and messy brown hair on the lighter side color-wise.

A short boy with an orange tank top and very messy orange hair.

A girl with her hair in a ponytail as well, a grey band around her hair as she wore an orange jacket.

As well as a boy with a clean cut wearing a black beanie and a full black outfit.

The 17th person in the photo seemed to be a girl with a sweater as well as glasses.

Soon, enough, after a few minutes of us having to process this group... We soon saw a man in a suit. He wore a blue eyepatch and tie. He seemed to have a smile on his face, looking down at the camera as if he was presenting himself. It wasn't clear on who this person was... But seeing how he was separated from everyone else, he was clearly not a participant in the game.

Not sure what exactly his role may've been, though.

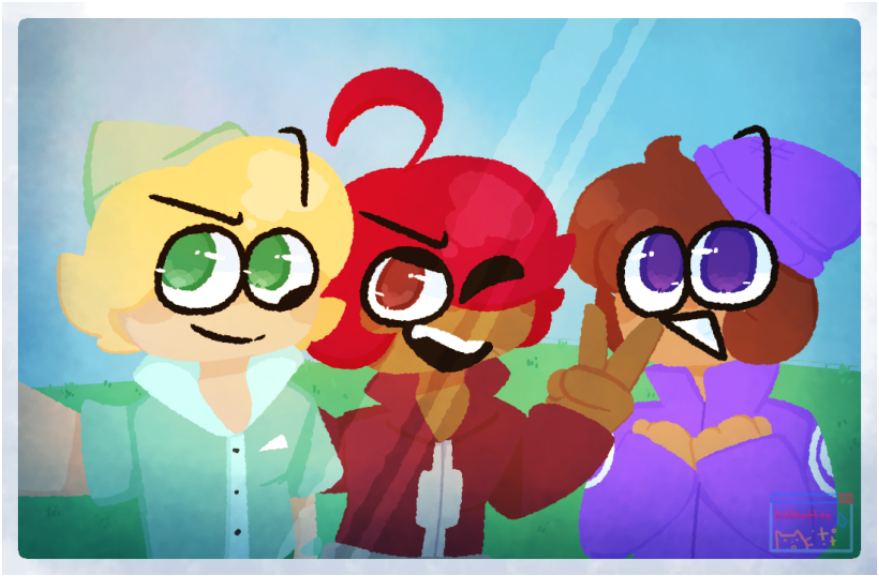
"Now you know who was a part of this original killing game... Shall we reveal the fates of these students? As well as the... former headmaster."

Former headmaster? Was that his role?

...I had a lot of questions. Unfortunately, I doubt they'd be solved. I don't really know if I'd like to see the fates of these people. Not like I had any say in it, as soon a video began to play with many clips from what appeared to be from the past of this school. I was... very conflicted. To say the least.

It started in the garden, the one that me Bomby and Rocky were in yesterday. It started with a boy, with a dull magenta-colored coat digging up something with a shovel. The boy with goggles that I had noted about earlier had stood behind him, soon getting knocked out by the shovel being swung against his head. The male with the shovel turned around, quickly backing up in surprise at the body. "S-SHIT!-" He looked around, panicking as he quickly grabbed a spade. "I can't let it be that damn obvious." We were forced to watch as the still conscious man began to slice the spade right into the wounded man's wrist, cutting it off and shoving it into the dirt. It was soon shown that he was dragged away to who the fuck knows where.

The clip suddenly blacked out, before showing a top view of the boy from earlier. He was shoving things inside of what seemed to be a gravesite. Someone was in front of him, speaking to him as they handed him a photograph. "...Here. This is the last item." They told him, as he went to grab it and look down at it. The photograph was soon zoomed into, revealing... Foldy, as well as the boy who was in the video, and another boy who was with the other two.



A trio... That was soon dropped into the hole. I noticed the boy get grabbed by the shoulder, before soon being shoved inside the hole and being buried alive by the unknown person. The screams of agony gave me terror, as I realized he faced the same fate that Bottle had.

Oh god, are we going to see all of the fucking deaths?

...We might be here for a while. I was too paralyzed to look away,

almost interested in watching all of this. God, I kinda felt awful for the people who knew these people. Like Foldy. I didn't even want to know how she felt about this. Before I could properly process the execution that we had just witnessed, it had cut once again to another view of a room.

A girl with blonde pigtails had a knife in her hand, entering inside a room where a boy with a grey jacket had stood. The boy didn't seem to notice, as he was too busy looking at something. I could hear the faint sound of giggling from the girl as she approached, knife tight in her hands as it was clear she was about to attack. The man noticed, though, going to turn over and raise an eyebrow. "What the fuck are you doing Bracelety- WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!" He yelped, as the girl who was dubbed 'Bracelety' laughed and raised the knife to attack him. The boy with the coat began to fight back, trying to grab her arm and tried to push her away to avoid what was coming to him. "I-I fucking KNEW IT!" He yelled, "GET OFF!" He seemed to be a very aggressive person from how he was acting. Which, when fighting for your life... I couldn't be too surprised about it. "Oh, Davidddd... I NEED that wish! I NEED ICE CUBE TO LOVE ME!" She laughed, before suddenly running the knife right into his chest. What I'd... presume to be David suddenly groaned in agony from the pain. He went to fall to his knees, soon dying at the hands of... wait.

Ice Cube???

Bracelety smiled at the sight, but, of course... It suddenly cut to black once she backed up from David's dead body. Bracelety soon was shown standing in front of a wall coming in her way. It was shaped with many poses she was forced to do, with spikes on the wall to secure certain death if she didn't do it quickly enough. It kept going as time went on, soon tiring her out to the point where Bracelety's arms were completely torn off from the spiked walls. She wasn't able to handle it anymore, soon letting the spikes take her life as she was exhausted from the different poses she was forced to do. It was loud and clear what her last words were though.

"...I'm sorry... Ice Cube."

I could hear tears coming from someone, who... I could easily presume it to be Ice Cube. I didn't know who this person was, but

from what it seems, it was clear that these people had connections with others in this place.

That's... what horrified me.

People here KNEW these people. The people who we have to watch die in front of our eyes.

The projector soon showed a scene of what appeared to be a nurse's office, with a boy with green glasses inside. He was wearing a thick red hoodie, seemingly looking through a cabinet for something. A girl wearing a red dress, having brown hair in a bun with the tips of her hair dyed red comes inside. She looked over at the boy. "Hey, like... Do you know where the bandages are? I gotta get them for my friend." The boy hesitated, sighing in what was clear annoyance. "...Yes, I'll help get them from the top shelf." He muttered, soon grabbing what clearly wasn't bandages. He grabbed a syringe and a bottle, going to fill the syringe with the solution before grabbing bandages. He dropped the bottle, which alerted the girl. "Uh... Like, what was that?" She looked down, confused. He seemed to glare at her, going to hide the syringe from her as he grabbed bandages. "Nothing, just... take this." He growled at her, and she looked up. "Oh hey! Thanks." She was about to grab it when he suddenly grabbed her arm and yanked her forwards. "Wha- What do you like, think you're doing!?-"

"Shut up and just take it." He hissed under his breath at her, going to suddenly insert the syringe inside of her and plunge the contents inside of her stream. She gasped in horror, soon collapsing as the boy went to go and carry her to the bed. He had a frown on his face, as he quickly went to leave soon after. The scene soon flicked to the hallway, from what seemed to be outside of the nurse's office. A girl with the green leaf hairclip soon ran out, trying to leave the nurse's office. The boy from earlier, though, grabbed her and pulled her back to be unable to leave. He had a knife, slicing her throat as she screamed and gagged. He seemed content once he had done the deed, soon turning and leaving the direction she was heading for. It was soon a girl with the orange jacket had approached, staring in horror at the sight.

"L-LEAFY?! oh my lead no.." She covered her mouth, before turning

away and heading in the same direction as the culprit had gone. I didn't... exactly have much to comment on this. Seeing these situations, which were likely absolutely real, happen right in front of my eyes was... overwhelming.

The scene soon showed the same boy as earlier, running as a boy around the same height as Rocky was chasing after him. "S-STOP-!" He cried out at him, trying to convince him to slow down. The much taller one though did not have any intentions of stopping until he was right at the end of the path. He let out a sigh of relief but had glanced back to notice the boy still running after him. Seeing him get pushed by the smaller one as he realized what he had done. The boy with flaming hair had quickly rushed to grab him by the sleeve, staring down at him with tears welling up in his eyes. "H-HOLD ON-" He tried to shout at him, trying his best to pull him back up. The one in the hoodie looked to the side. "I can't hold on for much longer.." He huffed, as the boy was struggling. He was whispering to himself, praying that he could pull him up. Seeing the differences in height though, as well as what seems to be weight, he stood no chance. He slipped out of his jacket, soon falling to his death into a pit of water. The younger boy had pulled back, stumbling and holding on to what remained of his hoodie. "R-ROBOTY-!" He screamed out, as suddenly a large jawbreaker shaped... object suddenly came from the sky and confirmed the death of what was obviously his friend. I could see the smaller one sob, burying his head into the hoodie as he was grieving for being the fault of his friend's death.

Whatever had happened to the poor boy must've broken him, though, as he was approaching a tall boy with a small ponytail tied behind his head. He was getting a drink but wasn't able to as the boy had silently snapped his neck and began to drag him away. The cup had shattered as it happened, not giving us any more clues on what may've happened at the murder... Not as if we needed it anyways. All of this was plenty graphic and devasting enough.

Once again, the boy in the tank top had stood there. With tears in his eyes as it was obvious he got caught for his crimes. The much older and taller man, proudly wearing his blue eyepatch was in a referee outfit. "All you need to do to survive is to simply do 6 pushups. Sounds easy enough, hm?" He smirked, as the younger boy began to

prepare himself for the pushups. He didn't seem to struggle much on it despite his size, only struggling with the metal beams stacking up on him each time. Which... Soon became impossible, as the exact same boulder that had crushed his friend previously soon fell on him which had crushed him immediately. All of what remained of the boy was his arm as well as a red cloth in his hand.

We were cut to a classroom, now. A boy seemed to be humming, wearing an oversized brown coat that was covering him as he seemed to be writing something. He didn't seem to notice a girl entering, wearing a short skirt as well as goggles as she went to walk off behind him. She glanced back, before going to grab a chair and move it on top of her. The boy seemed to have noticed as he turned back and noticed the girl swinging the chair right toward him. "L-Liy?-" He gasped out, before being hit right in the head as he was knocked out and fell out of his chair because of it. Liy took a deep breath. "...Let's just get this over with." She glanced around, going to move back the chair before propping him against the wall. She went to pull out a knife, going to stab him multiple times in the chest with it before forcing it into his hands and taking out his book, and beginning to write something in it. She smirked at the sight of her handiwork, going to turn away and leave the classroom before she got caught.

I was expecting to see Liy being executed, but no. Something completely different happened.

The girl who had witnessed the death of the girl who had her throat slit was approaching the boy with a green bowtie and suspenders. "YOU KILLED THEM." She accused, pointing at him with a glare. "Whaaat?? What are you talking about? I just ran into the freakshow while I was looking for evidence like you!" The man with an eyepatch had stood behind the boy, looking at the two uncomfortably.

"Stop lying to me."

"I'm not?? Jeez, what got you so heated? I didn't do anything!"

The banded girl began to grab him by the neck, choking him. I couldn't help but flinch at the sudden action, witnessing as she was choking him to death. Though, in another turn of events, the boy laughed in insanity. Obviously, he was fucked in the head. The sight

just... messed me up. I was forced to watch, slowly blurring out the sounds of the two conversating as they were killing each other. I wanted to puke, honestly... This... This was beyond what I expected. But, what really got me back into the scene was the boy pulling out a gun from his pocket. He had a twisted smile on his face as he stared at the girl.

"I-I-IF I'M GOING TO DIE, I'M T-TAKING YOU DOWN WITH ME!-"

He screamed, before shooting her. The girl managed to avenge herself, though, as the boy soon lost breath and had died as well.

I...

I don't even want to know the future of this game if things got this bad in the previous game.

I felt so disorientated at the sight, and in a lot of distress as well. I didn't want to feel this bad but... Just witnessing people die again was something I didn't want to do. I didn't want to revisit the sight of people losing their lives again. I closed my eyes, clenching my hands into fists as I was tearing up. I didn't... know what happened to the last death of the killing game. I was trying to hold myself back from getting too overwhelmed. All I could hear was a gunshot.

I weakly opened my eyes, seeing Liy collapsing to the floor after being shot in the head by the man who was clearly the headmaster during the time of the game. The real question was... What happened to him? The projector soon showed four people.

The girl with the purple backpack, a girl with a red jeweled necklace and headband, the girl with glasses and the light green sweater, as well as the boy with the completely black outfit. The four seemed to be the ones who managed to survive... The only ones. It wasn't clear on what happened to them, as the projector soon faded to black without any more scenes to show... At least, that's what I was hoping inside. We were all left in the dark for a few moments, as we took time to process things... I could hear the faintest whispers from my peers.

They were in disbelief. Just like I.

We had to all watch as people died back to back... As if it was merely just a show for them and us. The thought unsettled me, sending shivers down my spine as I calmed myself down with deep breaths. I couldn't let this be the thing that sends me over the edge.

"**...Now that you've seen the fates of the class before you, as well as your friends possibly... You may be wondering, what happened to the headmaster. The one who was behind this game. As... This wasn't our doing.**" Announcer spoke, not visible.

The darkness was soon cleared as a spotlight had shown near the top of the stage. I looked over in confusion, hearing the mutters and comments as we all seem to be paying attention to the only light source in the room. I could hear the giggles of one of the speaker boxes... As to who? I couldn't tell.

Suddenly, a body dropped from the ceiling, hung there. I could hear someone scream in horror as we all had realized the man that we have seen on the projector... Right in front of our very eyes... His dead corpse. His chest and stomach were completely ripped open, but inside was nothing. He was completely gutted out, his head hanging low as his face and features were not visible to the eye. Whoever this... person was. He had definitely died. The lights began to slowly revert back to normal, as the projector screen had risen back up to the ceiling and the speaker boxes had returned to their original position behind the podium. "**Ohohohoho... So, now you know. This is your motive, everyone... Perhaps you may take inspiration. Follow in the steps of your dead friends. Not like I care.**"

Everyone couldn't... speak. No, we were all too stunned by what we had just seen. The fucked up implications of it all. All of the deaths... We've seen so much so early on... I don't even know what's next for us. Whatever it was, I knew some of us were handling this much worse than others.

much worse.

I could hear someone stomp their feet onto the ground, soon attracting the attention of everyone in the room to them.

Foldy glared, standing there as she had her hands clenched into fists with tears in her eyes. "Y-YOU!-" She screamed, beginning to approach the stage with loud stomps. "Y-YOU ASSHOLES!" She seemed too overwhelmed with grief. "YOU WERE THE ONES WHO TOOK AWAY STAPY FROM ME!"

Firey Speaker Box raised an eyebrow from Foldy's snapping, leaning forward and shaking his head slightly. "That was not us, silly-"

"SHUT THE FUCK UP!" Foldy interrupted.

"...Excuse me?" Firey Speaker Box leaned back, looking at the others. "What the hell?-"

"I'M FUCKING DONE!" She growled, beginning to get up on the stage.

"...Guysssss-" Puffball Speaker Box was panicking a little, looking at the other three for assistance. She seemed a little nervous, taking a few steps back at the sight of Foldy approaching them like this.

Flower Speaker Box frowned. "Oh yeah? With what?? What are you gonna do, huh?"

Foldy growled, stomping her feet on the stage. "FUCK YOU STUPID ROBOTS!" She went to suddenly lunge toward Announcer, making a loud thud as she seemed to begin attacking him and trying to choke him.

"F-FOLDY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!" Eggy shouted in horror, "Get DOWN before you-"

Announcer suddenly stopped Foldy, grabbing her and shoving her away. He chuckled, going to stand. "Oh... How excited are you." He loomed over her, tilting his head and moving his hands behind her. "...I see we've ticked someone." Foldy stared in shock at the sheer power, going to try to move away. "W-Wait-"

"Unfortunately... You broke a rule. A very very important rule..." Announcer glared.

"N-NO-" She tried to turn away, trying to get off of the stage and leave before something could happen. Suddenly, though, the hanging body had dropped onto her and stopped her from leaving with its weight. "HELP!" She screamed, trying to get away from the speaker boxes. Despite her calls... Nobody came to help, too stunned to see Foldy even dare to break the rules like that.

Announcer looked away. "Take care of them both. I don't want to see them on the premises any longer." He went to move his hand out, snapping as the three speaker boxes quickly nodded. Puffball Speaker Box and Flower Speaker Box went to grab Foldy by each of her arms, beginning to drag her away. Firey Speaker Box, on the other hand, picked up the body with both of his hands and carried it off stage. All we could hear was Foldy's cries fading as they left to... who knows where. I don't even want to know.

"...Let me remind you all. Rule 5. Any acts of violence towards

any faculty members are strictly prohibited and will lead to severe consequences." Announcer growled. **"Do we understand?"**

"...W-Well, yeah. But what the fuck's going to happen to Foldy?" Puffball squinted, skeptical.

Announcer chuckled. "What we do to her is none of your concern. Just make sure to not make the same stupid mistake she has. You are now dismissed." Nobody moved immediately at first, too scared over witnessing the removal of someone like that. Though... I needed to go.

I quickly went to back away. I... Shit, Bomby's prediction actually was right. I don't know which one of them was his friend but... I'll have to talk to him about it. I completely forgot about the Pie thing, too overwhelmed with what happened to want to talk to anyone at the moment.

That was super fucking extreme for a simple motive to murder someone. In addition of just seeing someone who had pushed me away the day prior be taken away like that was even more unsettling.

I wanted to talk to Bomby about it all, though, knowing that he definitely had someone in the game that had died there. Where he was... I don't really know, I left immediately, and finding him after everyone else likely left was going to be a bit of trouble. I was willing to try, though. I began to pace myself, looking around. I didn't know if Bomby left or... Whatever it was, I was just mostly wandering around the halls aimlessly for a couple of minutes when I heard someone behind me.

"Hey, where are you going?"

I stopped myself, looking over. Eggy stood behind me, hands on her sides. "Well?" She seemed to be a little confused, probably because I had spaced out and just passed by her... I mean, it was a fair assumption at least.

"Just... wandering, I guess," I muttered, glancing off to the side. "Shit's fucked up..."

"Oh, tell me about it." She rolled her eyes, going to walk over to me. I went to lean on the wall, observing her. She went to move her hands up to her face, making sure her glasses kept on. "A first game though?.."

"Yeah, well, I heard about the possibility but... This confirms it."

"I see." She frowned. "Did you know anyone or?"

"No, which... I suppose would be fortunate for myself."

"Hm, I guess we're in the same boat then." She looked down, sighing. "I'll have to survey everyone to try to see who's going to get most affected by the events of that motive."

"As if they'd tell you." I sneered, rolling my eyes at the thought. "Good luck getting shit out of some of these assholes..."

"Hm, I'll take that luck."

I smirked a little, amused. "Alright then, where exactly do you plan to head off to?"

"Looking for more people to talk to about this." She went to stretch a little. "I need to make sure everyone's alright."

"Be my guest then. I won't disturb you in your work any longer." I went to stand, going to put my hands to my sides. "I think I just need to sleep this off..." Despite my oversleeping, I just... couldn't help but want to go back to bed. All of this was overwhelming.

I don't know who the actual hell anyone in there was.

But the shit they had to go through.

It unnerved me.

I mean like, who the hell knows what we're gonna go through at this point.

But... Whatever. I went to nod to Eggy, bidding her goodbye before heading off to the dormitory hallway to head into my room. Obviously, it wouldn't take too long until I had found it, entering inside and taking a deep breath to calm myself. Alright. Just... going to head to bed.

It took a bit to get comfortable, trying to clear my mind as I covered myself with the provided blanket and closed my eyes. I already knew the tension for the next few days would be high... As witnessing

devasting events such as that would probably hit anyone hard. God, what the fuck are we going to do now? We already fucking lost someone because of it. I doubt we'd be able to keep ourselves together for much longer to be realistic...

All I had to make sure is to make sure **I** wasn't the victim.

Should be easy.

...Right?

[2] Exploration.

I woke up rather early... I believe, at least. It was likely because I had decided to sleep in yesterday. I felt my stomach rumble immediately, realizing I should probably treat myself to a snack before doing anything else. I was rather tired still as well...

I went to get out of bed, grooming myself to look a little neater. I went to head out from my dormitory, not looking back as I was prepared to head to the cafeteria for something to give me energy. I was rather disorientated in general, losing track of time and all. I've noticed myself pulling out my PDA and checking the time before tiredly putting it back into my pocket. I suppose I don't even know if it's an accurate time of the outside world though... I rather not gaslight myself into thinking more than I need to. Especially in my current state of mind.

I ended up brushing against someone, stopping in my tracks, and looking over. "Hm?" My tense gaze softened, relaxing myself as I realized it was just Bomby. The exact person I was actually looking for, how convenient. "Ah, just the one I was looking for..."

"You were looking for me?"

"Correct... About what had happened the day prior. I suppose that confirms you were right, yes?"

Bomby had a raised eyebrow before his gaze softened. He sighed. "For the worse, yeah. He really is gone." He put his arm on his hip. "You wanna talk this over with coffee?"

"I'd love to do so. Was heading there anyways."

Bomby gave a nod, going to turn and begin heading for the cafeteria. I followed suit shortly after. I was a little hesitant... but...

"Sorry about your loss, by the way."

Bomby glanced over to me. "Yeah... Thanks, man. Gonna be honest, he was kinda hanging with the wrong people in there. Ya know?"

I tried to recall what he meant, before realizing he had pushed someone to their death by sheer accident prior. "...Ah. I quite believe that I do. Well, what was his name? I don't believe I've ever caught it." I questioned.

"Well... He sorta wanted to be called Jr. Good kid, really." Bomby rubbed the back of his head. "I guess situations like this could really bring the worst outta yourself."

"To be fair, we're being forced to resort to murder..."

"Exactly! God, I don't really know about the kids here. They don't deserve this."

I paused, raising an eyebrow. "Kids?"

"Well, yeah. Why do you think I have my ultimate? It's my career, damn best at it too!" Bomby chuckled a little, "That does mean I gotta be the adult of the group, well... Literally."

"I never really realized how old some of us are..." I trailed off, frowning. "Then again, there's Rocky."

"I mean, if Jr was able to get sent here..." He shuttered a little at the thought. "It was fair game for him too."

"Unfortunately so... Guess it'd be worth just keeping an eye on him then. Would suck to see him pass." I went to grip my mask at the

thought. I'd hate to see such an event... The scene I had in my mind revolted me. I'd just...

I'd feel awful.

God, no, not like this. I didn't want to think about it. Bomby seemed to have noticed my little freakout, putting a hand on my shoulder. "I... get it." He awkwardly murmured, glancing forwards to notice the cafeteria right there. I acknowledged it, giving a light nod as we walked inside.

The energy felt tense, as I went to stumble over to the table to sit. "...I just need something to wake me up, that's all," I told Bomby, holding my arms. I didn't feel so good... A gut feeling, possibly. Or just everything in general was easily a reason for it. Who knows.

"I'll be back with it then." He gave a small salute before heading into the kitchen to get the coffee for us both.

I gave a small nod, sighing as I went to cross my arms as some sort of support. I went to rest my head comfortably. I was just really tired.

I was on the verge of drifting off, my headspace simply thinking about... well, nothing really. I didn't have the energy. So, there I was. Basically about to pass out in the cafeteria when I heard the footsteps and voices of... two people? Was I fucking hallucinating? I looked up, wary when I noticed it was indeed two different people.

Donut was standing next to Bomby, holding 2 mugs in his hand and giving me a worried look. Then again, I suppose he always looked like that.

Bomby had his own mug in his hand, going to sit across from me.

"...H-Here," Donut murmured, going to sit down beside me. I went to sit up, giving a nod. "Thanks." I weakly spoke, lifting my mask to grab my mug to drink the coffee the barista had offered me. I was quite satisfied with the taste, feeling the caffeine working on me quickly. My head was rather still fuzzy from it all, but my condition was much better than it was previously.

The two seemed to notice this new state of I, as Bomby gave a small

smile. "Oh yeah, Donut was already making coffee so I invited him. That's okay, right?"

"...Mhm."

Donut gave a nod. "T-Thanks, haha." He rubbed the back of his head, going to take a drink of his coffee. "H-How are you two doing? I know... Things are awkward right now but..."

"Could be better." Bomby simply replied, glancing off to the side. The man seemed visibly tired, as well as just anxious in general. I knew it wasn't good to push him.

But I glanced over to Donut, who was looking at me expectedly. I paused, giving a small awkward cough. "...Y-Yeah erm. Same as well. What do you guys think happened to those 4 people?" I suddenly brought up, the question drifting in my mind when thinking about the motive... Which, I figured was why Bomby felt so uncomfortable. The two seemed rather surprised to see me mention the motive now. "Uh..."

"D-Do you think they escaped?-" Donut murmured, taking a sip as he finished.

Bomby looked off to the side. "Man, uh... I- guess?- I don't know any of those 4 people, so I can't say much..."

"Neither do I. That applies to the whole game though."

"...W-Well, I... think so as well?- I-I don't know." He sighed, looking downwards as his head hung low. "I-I feel like I recognize them... B-But I don't." He looked up at the both of us, moving a hand to prop up his glasses.

I looked over to Bomby, who gave the same look at me. We both looked back at Donut afterward, unsure of how to react. Though... I decided to be the first to respond to that.

"What the hell do you mean feel like you recognize them? Do you think you've seen someone out there that looks like some of them?"

"...I-I think? It's really hard to explain..."

"Right."

Bomby sighed. "I-I think I'm going to go." He suddenly said, going to stand. "Thanks for uh, having me." He said, drinking the remains of his coffee before going to walk off. I raised an eyebrow but said no remark as I gave a wave as he left.

"S-See you," Donut said, yawning a little.

I could sense the environment was rather awkward... Sorta made me uncomfortable. I stood up as well, "I'll see you later as well." I spoke, giving a wave towards him as well as I quickly sped walked out of the situation. A part of me felt bad for just abandoning him, but I had other things that I wanted to spend the day on...

Such as that second floor. I recalled something about it, but I found no time to want to visit it... Well, until now. At least it'd be something new to think about. Something to take my mind off of things.

Yeah.

Yeah, I liked that idea.

I wandered around the halls, rather mindlessly as I hadn't recalled where the staircase of the new place would be. I only really mapped out places I'd visit often (such as the cafeteria and dormitories) in my head.

Didn't exactly take too long, thankfully. I approached the stairs, noticing that what was previously blocking it off was gone. The sight amused me, as I began to slowly walk up the stairs to the next floor.

Completely new territory...

Admittedly? A little nervous about what to expect. Though, when I was halfway up the stairs, I could hear footsteps behind me. Having a bad feeling, I took a few steps forward before turning around suddenly to see who it was.

Puffball froze in her place, looking at me in confusion as she kept her hand on the rail of the staircase. She raised an eyebrow. "...What?

Can't I go upstairs now?"

I shook my head. "No, you can... If it wasn't obvious, I was about to as well. I haven't checked the floor out yet."

"How the fuck?? It's been open for a couple of days. Are you fucking lazy??"

I frowned from underneath my mask of such accusations. "...I had other things on my mind," I muttered, hands behind my back. "I presume this means you've been up here before?"

"Well... Yeah! As soon as I heard it was open, weren't you there when I tried to get the damn shit outta the way before?"

I paused, before recalling such memories. I gave a quiet nod, turning around and beginning to head to the very top of the stairs. I could hear Puffball's steps behind me as we both reached the top.

"Hm." I turned over to Puffball. "If you know so much about this new place, perhaps you could show me around," I suggested, raising an eyebrow at her reaction. Puffball was stretching a little, an eye closed as she turned over to me.

"What? You want ME to show you around?" She sneered, "You know, I'd think you'd be the type to show me the mysterious shit. Like... You're the one we know jack-shit about."

"And what is that supposed to mean?" I took a little offense.

Puffball rolled her eyes, crossing her arms. "Nevermind. Let's just go look at what's here." She sneered a little, beginning to walk forward to go deeper into the floor. I glanced down the stairs, hesitant, but after a few moments... I quickly went moving to follow the vocalist.

The floor itself was average from what it first seemed. There wasn't anything about it that stood out... Which could be considered creepy in itself.

Puffball seemed to be humming to herself, barely acknowledging me as we walked. I watched quietly as she moved her hand up to read the signs that were imprinted on each door, knowing she was

muttering out the words to herself as she squinted and observed. It didn't take her too long, but she had done it often enough for it to be notable.

Finally, after what felt like several doors of doing this action, she finally had found interest in one of the rooms. She looked back, noticing me with a small smirk.

"Oh, you actually followed? Thought you'd just fuck off or whatever after a while."

"I have no reason to do that."

"Yeah, yeah. Well, I found this one room. Dunno if you're into it buuuuut..." She went to swing open the door, heading inside first. I reluctantly followed, despite the attitude that the girl had chosen to give me. The room was almost as average as everything else at first, but it was noticeably a different layout from a typical classroom that you'd see in the school.

There were long tables everywhere, with sewing machines sitting upon these tables like rows.

It almost felt like... a factory in there. The thought bothered me a bit, but I tried to not take too much of it in mind as I looked over at her. "What is this, exactly?" I asked, moving my hands to my hips with a skeptical face behind the smiley face mask.

"What? Have you NOT seen a sewing machine before?" She scoffed, "This is probably for all of the fashion freaks that fucking wanna make clothes in this place or whatever. Seems like a whole waste of time to me... They probably make damn ugly as hell clothing here."

"You have no right to judge that."

"Uh, why are you defending them?" She glared at me. "I'm just stating my opinion. Dunno about you, but I don't think that's too big of a deal~" She hummed before she went to walk around the room. I decided to stay by the doorway, not having any intentions nor purpose to actually be in there besides to explore each room briefly.

Puffball went to grab something from one of the sewing machines,

pulling it up and gazing at it.

"Sheesh, this is so red. Don't ya think they'd fucking mix it up a bit with some, oh, I dunno. Pink? It'd look way better than whatever the fuck this is."

I raised an eyebrow. "You're asking that to me of all people?"

"Uh, yeah? Who else do I ask? The fucking wall?" She went to place down the piece of cloth, before walking over to me. She proceeded to poke me directly in the chest, which made me flinch and back away from the sudden contact.

"Don't *do* that," I growled with a low voice towards the vocalist. "Let's just get out of here. You clearly don't even like this place anyways."

"Alright, alright! Whatev's." She rolled her eyes, before shoving me off to the side and heading out. I moved my hand to where she shoved, trying to dust off her fingerprints with my hand as I watched her with a frown... Before I went to leave out the room as well. Not a place I'd go to often, if at all.

Puffball stood back in the hallway, looking around. I soon followed up behind her, with made her glance back. We stared at each other for a few brief awkward seconds, before I chose to quietly take a step back to give her some space.

"Tch. That's what I thought."

I looked off to the side, not replying to her attempt at a witty remark as I went ahead to walk to the next nearest room. As Puffball had done previously, I had moved my hand up to the sign and moved close to read it through my mask...

'Student Council Room'

With a bit of intrigue, I went to move my hand out and push the door open to walk inside. I could hear footsteps from behind, knowing that the other was watching and had joined me inside. It... was painfully average, unfortunately.

It felt as if it was an average business room. Long big oval-ish table in

the center with a lot of chairs surrounding it. There was a whiteboard on the other side of the room that faced the door, nothing being written on the whiteboard as the two of us had walked inside. I walked past the chairs slowly, finding interest in the whiteboard and attempting to find any markers to use.

I could hear Puffball doing the same, especially after she had seemed to raise something up high and exclaim. "Found something!~" She grinned, as I looked over and focused my attention on whatever the hell she was doing. I was amused when I saw the sight of the marker in her hands.

"Well then. What do you plan on doing with that?"

Puffball snickered. "What do ya think?" She went to lean close to the whiteboard, moving her hair out of her face as she leaned. She proceeded to unscrew the cap of the marker, holding it in her other hand as she began to doodle something on the whiteboard with it.

I watched with interest and curiosity...

But immediately lost that spark upon seeing what she drew.

"Really." I looked at her with a disappointed frown. Out of all the things...

She drew a dick?

Puffball smirked, going to put back on the cap and place it down. "Whaaaat? Can't we just live a little like kids. I mean, we're technically supposed to be in school soooo..."

"But we're not."

"Oh my god, you're always such a fucking downer! You know that, right?!"

I couldn't help but chuckle a little from her tantrum. "Maybe. But, I think it's best we part ways here. It doesn't seem like there's anything interesting left on this floor." I finally concluded. It was a little disappointing admittedly, but maybe it wasn't worth exploring this place earlier. So, I guess I dodged a bullet there.

"You're WELCOME." She scoffed. "I'll see you later, or whatever. I won't be surprised if you died..~" She mockingly spoke, before heading out of the room without me.

I couldn't help but just shake my head lightly as she left, staying there for a bit longer.

I glanced back at the whiteboard, where the girl's small drawing had remained... I turned over towards it, looking over at the marker and hesitantly going to grab it. Taking off the cap, I began to lean a bit close to draw a small circle... before adding a smile inside of it.

I closed the marker cap, before turning away and quickly leaving downstairs to for my room.

It was the normal procedure for me. Getting ready for bed and soon tuning out all of my thoughts and everything that's happened for the favor of just getting some rest. I suppose if anything, this whole thing... It did feel refreshing to finally get some nice sleep.

Even if the next day may be my last.

AHHH IM SO SORRY FOR LIKE. THE LACK OF UPDATES?? a lot of stuff's been going on and trying to get motivation to write on wattpad has been TOUGH. I'll still try to update when I have the motivation / want to but otherwise expect slow updates from here on out!! (i think you guys already expected that from me though haha)

[2] Inconveniences.

Morning... I think.

I couldn't exactly tell, my vision and hearing being rather foggy. Though, I could definitely tell that there was something out there... I could hear it.

Was this what death felt like?

It felt...

really heavy.

My vision soon cleared itself, the reality of my surroundings soon coming as I stared up at the other person's face.

One with a half-blind eye...

I blinked from underneath my mask, at a loss for words as I realized that the other figure was sitting upon my formerly unconscious body staring down at me.

I immediately shoved them away, their curious stare soon being broken as they looked away and winced from the shove.

Profily frowned at me, going back to look over at me. "Heyyy... What was that for?"

I was breathing pretty heavily, glaring at them. "You. Scared. Me." I growled through gritted teeth. The other seemed to frown at my aggressiveness. "Well, I was curious about something! So I went to go and visit your room."

"How exactly long have you been staring at me?"

"Not long enough to be tempted to lift up your mask!" They playfully said, going to move their hand to boop me on the nose. Well, through my mask, that was.

"*Stop.*" I spat, going to sit up and grumble as I went to get out of bed.

I went to slide out of bed, standing and adjusting my mask. I could feel the smaller figure shuffle behind me as I went to turn around and notice them on their knees looking up at me with an innocent gaze. "Sooooo... Could I ask my question? Please? I'd want to know what you think!"

"What is it," I murmured, going to continue on with putting on and adjusting my tie to wear for the day.

"Well, the whole other game thingy! I have NO idea who anyone there is. I was just wondering if... you or anyone else you've talked to know any of those weird people!"

I took a moment to think.

"You don't know anyone there?"

"Well... Nope!" They spoke, as I reluctantly went to sit back down on my bed and observe them as they were laid on their stomach. They were swinging their legs as it was raised up. "I kinda feel lonely. Is it just me?"

"Well... I suppose so. It does seem like a few people here--" I remembered Foldy's whole... outburst. "---do seem to know others. Guess we have that in common."

As Profily was processing that, I could soon see their eyes gleaming with excitement.

"We have something in common?! OMG, that's awesome!" They smiled, going to move up and immediately hug me. I flinched from the contact, trying to immediately swat them away from myself. I looked off to the side.

"Yeah. I suppose it is."

As bothered as I was with Profily's presence... At least knowing someone was as lonely as I... Or should I say, unfamiliar with others, was nice.

"I wonder what else we have in common... Do you have a blind eye like me?" They pointed at themself. "Or... Do you like music? I love music! It makes me want to dance." They exclaimed in excitement, going to sit up and observe me eagerly. I felt a little uncomfortable with their sudden questions, shaking my head reluctantly.

As I did so, my stomach rumbled.

"Oh, I'm hungry too! We also have that in common." They grinned playfully at me.

I scowled a little at their remark, going to stand. "To the cafeteria, then. I rather not continue being hungry." I had completely forgotten that I hadn't even eaten much... The last thing I had in the cafeteria was simply just a cup of coffee, just now remembering my craving for a snack before I had run into Bomby.

How unfortunate that I hadn't gotten the chance to even get it.

"Oh, sure! Can I come? Pleaaase?"

"Why would I deprive you of food? That doesn't seem very nice of me."

"Well, even if you said no, I woulda come anyways. Sooo..."

I frowned from behind my mask. "Oh. Great." The illusion of choice, was something I didn't like being presented with. Not like this whole thing was exactly that...

No use thinking about it, though.

I had my priorities.

Profily smiled happily, going to get off of the bed and skip right for my door. They opened it, going to soon walk outside and leave the door open for me to follow suit. Of course, I didn't take much time lingering around in my abode as I headed out and left the Ultimate Stalker to close my doors for me. Which, they had done with quite care.

The door barely made any noise as it closed.

"Is that something you learn from being a stalker?" I remarked, moving my hands behind my back as they headed over to join beside me.

"Whaaat? No. I learned that ages ago before I became titled that."

I raised an eyebrow. "So you've been stalking for a while."

They gave a light chuckle, rubbing the back of their head as we began to depart for the cafeteria. "Well... Maybe! But I mean, at least

I'm good at my job...? And I know how bad it is! I don't ever use it for bad though, pinky promise!"

"Not like I could do anything about it," I muttered. "We may be more likely than not dying here anyways."

I felt a light nudge, glancing over. "Hey! Be a little more optimistic, that's how you get to places!" They scolded playfully, giving me a positive smile at me as they looked up at my masked face. I hesitated from their statement, shaking my head and looking away soon after.

"I've been to places. Plenty, in fact."

"Oh, really? You HAVE to tell me about it! I'd love to know allllll about it!"

I sneered. "You of all people? Tch, I don't think so."

"Why not?"

"I don't think I trust you enough, plain and simple Profily," I spoke, moving my hands to mess with my tie uncomfortably. I didn't feel so safe being in the close company of the stalker of all people. Though, I think I've already made that quite clear.

Thankfully, I could soon notice someone out of the corner of my... eye? mask?

Whatever. Someone was approaching us. You get the point.

I turned over to look over towards Tv, who was giving us a friendly wave. "O-Oh, hello! What are you two out here for?"

"We were just about to head out to get some food," I informed politely, finding myself much more safer now that there was someone else to keep Profily in check.

They nodded. "Yeah! Do you wanna join us? I think it'd be nice to have as many friends with us as possible, we can all bond together!"

He had thought for a moment, "Hm..." Before giving a nod. "O-Of course! I don't quite have anything else to do, haha."

I gave a small smile under my mask.

However, I couldn't hold that smile for long as I watched Profily dash ahead of us. "Come on! Last one there's a rotten egg!" They stuck their tongue playfully at us before running off. I shook my head, a little amused by their childish attitude.

As they went out of sight, Tv glanced over to me. "You know, Yellow... I-I never caught you as one to be quite social. E-Especially with one with such high energy as them." He spoke out.

I scoffed. "Oh, I don't like them."

"A-A little hurtful but... I suppose I could understand."

"Could you really blame me if someone goes into your room and you wake up with them staring right at your face?" I spoke, beginning to walk forward to avoid the cautious gaze of the other male.

The technician stared for a moment, before quickly stumbling and following right behind me. "T-They... what?" He gasped out, almost out of breath and in shock.

I gave a slow nod in confirmation. "You'd be rather surprised by what they're capable of."

"...U-Ultimate Stalker, right?"

"Correct. I'd assume you could connect the dots from there, right?"

Tv took a moment, "...Yeah. I-I do believe so."

I sighed, before finally approaching the doors to the cafeteria where Profily stood with their hands on their hips. They were eyeing the both of us with skepticism. "Sheeeesh, what took you two slowpokes so long? Doing lovey-dovey stuff?" They teased.

...

To say I was in disbelief at what they just said would be a mere understatement of my feelings right now.

Before I could say anything rather meaner than usual, Tv immediately spoke up as I was about to open my mouth. "O-Oh, no! Not at all!-"

"It's nothing like that," I muttered. "I just met him, after all, I'm not one to rush relationships."

Profily made a pouting noise. "Aw, I was so sure about it too! Oh well, let's go in now then!" They went to turn around, before moving forward and pushing open the doors as the two of us followed after the younger person.

"Okaay... Should I make you two something or?" They turned back once we had headed in, moving their arms as if they were smelling the aroma of the cafeteria.

I frowned. "How about... no. I'm fairly certain we're both more capable of making something for ourselves." I crossed my arms at them.

"Hey! B-But I wanna make something nice for you both!"

"I don't want it."

"Awe... Why not? I think it'd be a nice way to get along better!"

Tv frowned from our little petty argument. "Hey! How about... Instead, we all go in together? M-Maybe we could all make something together?" He suggested, giving a small shrug afterward.

I hesitated, about to protest... However, when peeking over to see what Profily was thinking, it was obvious they were VERY into the idea. They were jumping up and down, giving eager nods. I sighed. "Alright, fine. But you aren't touching any of my food. Got it?" I squinted as I pointed my finger at Profily.

They whistled, hands behind their back. "Pssh.. Okay, I got the message! No touching your food. Got it!"

Tv moved over to me, putting a hand on my shoulder as we watched Profily wander off once again. They were quite the type to wander...

Weren't they.

Well...

God. It happened far too quickly to even process.

Profily had wandered into the kitchen, a place we had all intended to go.

As we were about to move towards the kitchen entrance, the head of the titled stalker had peered out from the door with a worried look on their face. They held the doorframe with a visibly tight grip.

"P-Profily? What's going on?"

"BOTH OF YOU- C-COME! NOW!-"

I had no idea if this was some sort of prank... Or just a sick joke from the stalker.

But either way, a sense of urgency was felt... We had to respond, both of us rushing over.

Or more of Tv dragging me along, with myself trying to stumble and keep my balance as I quickly followed in pursuit of my companion as

he held onto my hand very tightly.

Fear was struck within us all...

And a fear, that was reasonable.

What we saw... Was something that I wish I could claim that I wouldn't have expected.

In the messy kitchen was the sight of Pie, her limp body up against the kitchen counter. Her face was buried in the sink, it being completely full of water. There was blood in the water, as bits of it were flowing out from it onto the ground. Her body simply sat there on her knees as if she had allowed this painful fate to succumb to her.

I didn't know what to say before I could... or ANYONE could...

Tv stumbled a bit, his shaky hands quickly rummaging through his pockets as he pulled out his own PDA and went to look down at it. Even if I couldn't see who was on the screen, it was rather obvious from the voice on what was going on visually. The announcement left a chill down my spine, as I moved to clutch my chest to just... breathe.

Announcer's voice rang. "Hello, students. It appears to us that *a body has been discovered*. Please report outside into the cafeteria kitchen." He reported before I could hear a beep that had seemingly ended the announcement.

I watched as Tv tried to put away his PDA, looking off to the side.

Profily themself, also look rather startled from the sight. I suppose it's not every day you see a dead corpse. I mean, I myself am also rather bothered by the sight. Pie wasn't exactly someone I saw very often, yet, I could tell her peaceful demeanor was completely shattered by... whoever had done this. For whatever reason it may be.

I had stepped off to the side as the others had begun to gather over to where the three of us had stood. It was clear that they were all far too terrified to even step closer towards where the body was present at that very moment. It was difficult for many of us to process, so it seems.

Finally, someone had spoken.

"...T-That isn't good," Donut said, beginning to step out of the crowd and closer to where Pie had been left. Though, before he could get too close...

"Oh, riiiiight... We gotta tell you the whole she-bang with what you do now. Some sorta procedure or whatever." Firey Speaker Box spoke from behind the group, causing all of us to turn in his direction. He was leaning on PSB, who glanced over at him with a frown. "I do believe you all already know by now what it is, though!~ You all will receive time to do whatever you'd like. Once this time is up, you all must report to the trial room to hold our second-ever class trial!~"

"If not, you're gonna face the same fate that friend of yours back at the motivation announcement did. Ya got it?" FireySB threatened, moving a finger towards his neck and doing a neck-cutting gesture with it.

"Uuugh... We fuckin' GET IT by now." Puffball scoffed, glaring over at the two speakerboxes... PSB in specific, "How 'bout you two fuck off so we can get some work done here?"

"Show some manners for your superiors, firstly! And fine." He sneered, before going to grab the hand of the other speakerbox and leading them out of the kitchen to leave the rest of us... students, to do our thing. I turned over back to Donut, who at this point had managed to come right up next to the body.

Eggy hesitantly went to walk over, and I decided to quietly watch as the crowd dispersed themselves to do their own thing. "Find anything of interest?"

"Well... I-It's odd to me how there's b-blood in the water. D-Drowning doesn't have that, does it?" Donut questioned, as I went to stand beside Eggy and give a nod. "No, she must've died by other means... But how."

Donut shakingly moved his hand to the corpse, before moving the head away from the sink full of water.

As I peered over to check it out for myself... Her face had closed eyes as if she was calmly meditating... But except for such calmness, there was disturbance in her expression. As if her pains were imprinted in time with the water.

What was most noticeable though...

An open wound that was struck right against her neck, clearly having been cut.

Eggy grimaced at the sight. "That... certainly explains it."

Donut had immediately let go of the head, going to let it drop back into the sink as he went to get up and back away from the sight. "I'm never touching a dead body ever again." He immediately spoke, turning away and leaving the room immediately.

"To be frank... I don't-" I was about to respond, but noticed at that point that he had left. I frowned at the sight, shaking my head a bit. "Well, are we going to assume the knife's around here?" I questioned.

Out of the corner of my eye, I had noticed a sharp blade that shined in the light that surrounded the room. Immediately, I moved to the side as someone had grabbed a nearby knife and pointed it right in my direction.

"Oh, like this?"

I glared at Pillow, who seemed to be observing me with her supposed innocent smile. But I knew better than to think of her as such. Her

recklessness didn't seem one of pretending, though, as she had moved the knife back to herself. "I noticed this knife in the sink! It's probably the murder weapon."

Eggy rolled her eyes. "Put that down. It's safe to assume whoever had done this cleaned the murder weapon. The sink's full of bloody water, after all."

I couldn't help but squint at her decision to even decide to do that in the first place.

"Oh, okay!" She didn't seem to mind listening to the other girl as she placed down the weapon on the counter gently. "Looks like whoever did this was in a rush! I wonder why..."

"We'll have to find out when the time comes. Maybe others might've found things..."

"So time to go to the trial room now?"

The sudden voice of yet another person in the room made me jump, as I turned over and saw Profily staring at me with innocent beaming eyes. Just like Pillow... I moved my hand to my mask as if I was covering my already obscured face. "Please. Don't scare me like that again." I snapped at them in irritation.

"Oh, sorry!" They spoke, playing with their hands. "I didn't know what to say... I just wanted to make sure I could be emotional support of some sort."

Eggy sighed. "Let's just get this over with. Besides the fact the kitchen here is a complete mess... I don't think we can gather anything else here." She moved her hand into her coat pocket.

"Let's get going."

I gave a small nod, as Pillow had seemed to already have been on her way to wander out of the kitchen. Profily looked at the both of us eagerly, giving a thumbs up before following the other out. I gave a disappointed sigh at the sight, shaking my head a bit... They were definitely not the type of people I'd be hanging out with. Let alone for important tasks such as this...

The therapist appeared to have noticed my rather irked posture, as she began to move her hand out to offer it to me. I glanced down at it, a little confused as to what she was doing.

There was a few moments of awkward pause, before Eggy had moved her hand back to her side.

"I'm aware that you're quite unfamiliar with these types of people. Let alone having to be in their presence 24/7. Just know, though, as letting your biases and emotions show in these types of situations may not be a good idea." She warned.

Yet, I couldn't help but chuckle from her words.

Before long, though, this chuckle had immediately faded. Underneath my mask, I had a dead gaze that she would not be ever able to see. My voice proceeded to come off as cold, as I crossed my arms and eyed her skeptically. "I'm *not*. Don't try to give me advice when I don't need it."

I moved my hands to adjust my tie before heading out, not having enough regard to listen to whatever else she had wished to speak to me.

I knew very well that it was her job to help others, talking out with them and whatnot.

Yeah, it's quite literally her ultimate.

But I knew, very well knew, that such services weren't necessary for me.

I've never found a use for them then, nor will I now.

Even in the face of death constantly lingering over me every single day.